

TRADITIONS Christmas in Highlands County



KEVIN MAIN/CORRESPONDENT

Visiting neighborhood Christmas lights is a favorite tradition, and the house on 5303 Lakewood Road is a popular spot for families to visit, because they can tune into 107.9 FM and hear music that corresponds with the lights.

By **MELISSA MAIN**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Instead of snow and ice, residents of Highlands County celebrate the Christmas season basking in the warm Florida sunshine as they enjoy holiday lights, visits to the Sebring Christmas Carousel of Lights and family gathered around a table.

“My husband and I moved to Florida from Michigan 11 years ago,” Kristy Harris said. “Typically, we would go back to Michigan to visit family in the summer and at Christmas.

“However, this will be the third year that my parents and sister make the trek to Florida for Christmas and New Year, because [of the] warmer weather and swim-

ming in the pool on Christmas Day,” she said.

Shelley Glisson’s family visits the Sebring Christmas Carousel of Lights every year. They take a family photo with Santa and enjoy the lights and activities at the Circle.

Nita Hartely’s favorite Christmas tradition is buying



KEVIN MAIN/CORRESPONDENT

Martha Crosbie said, “I love putting out my nativity scenes. That’s my favorite Christmas tradition.”

an ice cream cake from Dairy Queen with the words “Happy Birthday Jesus” on the cake.

“I make him [Jesus] a birthday card and tell him what I’m going to give him,” Hartely said. “For example, I might tell him I am going to work on forgiveness. Then I thank him for my year.”

Kathy Stone takes her daughter through the drive through at Dairy Queen, and then they drive around and look at Christmas lights. “This year we had a scavenger hunt as we looked at lights,” Stone said.

Some people are making volunteering a part of their Christmas traditions. “This year I’m spending Christmas Eve with Christmas in the Highlands as we do our outreach to kids within the community,” Tiffany Daigle Rogers said. “We are bringing Christmas to the little ones!

“Then Christmas Day I’ll be resting and relaxing with my husband, Mom, in-laws, uncle and 3-month-old son,” she said.

Many of the people who responded to our post about Christmas traditions on social media



COURTESY PHOTO

Back row, from left: Shelby (baby), Gavin, Megan and Caleb celebrated at the Sebring Christmas Carousel of Lights with their siblings, front row, Rylee, Grady and JJ. The Glisson family goes to the Circle every year as part of their family Christmas traditions.



KIM LEATHERMAN/STAFF

This magazine tree is ready for a coat of paint and sparkles.

Make Christmas memories with family Enjoy some craft time

By **KIM LEATHERMAN**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — The holidays are the perfect time to unplug from the digital world and spend quality time with the family. Kids love to create and there’s no shortage of craft ideas or materials than at Christmas.

Glitter and glue can open a child’s imagination. Add in pipe cleaners and googly eyes and you can open an entire new world; much in the way a great book can. So, gather the family and the glitter around the hearth and make a couple of easy, inexpensive and fun crafts. Did we mention cheap?

Parents and grandparents from the Highlands News-Sun staff have tried many of these with our own children and grandchildren. Some traditions have been handed down to us while others were started just this year from a search of the internet or word of mouth recommendation.

One of my favorite cheap and easy crafts was taking my mom’s old magazines and folding the top right corner to the bottom left corner of the magazine and crease the paper tight. Continue to do the same for all pages. When finished, pin the covers together and spread the pages to make a “tree.” Depending on the size of the magazine, you may want to add two or three together. Spray paint green or whatever color scheme you want and glue pom-poms and glittery bits to it — and ta da!

Editor Karen Clogston’s favorite memories involve creating memories with her daughter making applesauce dough ornaments. The following is her mother’s recipe and directions for the applesauce ornaments. Use equal amounts of applesauce and cinnamon. Mix together to form a ball. Then roll it out and cut your shapes — we like to make gingerbread men shapes! Make sure to create a hole at the top so that a string can run through it. Place them on wax paper and let them dry completely for at least two days. Once completely dry, the ornament can be painted if you wish. Put a string or ribbon through the hole at the top and hang on your tree or in the kitchen!

TRADITION | 7A

CRAFTS | 5A

County sets legislative priorities

Mandatory sprinklers, asphalt plant withheld

By **PHIL ATTINGER**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — When the Highlands County Legislative Delegation arrives Jan. 21 to get an annual “wish list” from local officials and residents, some items will get

left off.

The Board of County Commission decided Tuesday, Dec. 18 to hold off on asking for changes in legal advertising requirements and permission to sell asphalt to private companies and

to other counties.

County commissioners opted instead to keep just the list promoted by the Florida Association of Counties, with one exception: They deleted from their list the request to make residential fire

sprinklers mandatory for new construction.

That would require changes in county code, and commissioners preferred to let residents decide for themselves if they wanted to add the expense of sprinklers.

Commissioners didn’t discuss the matter of legal advertisement requests, which would have asked legislators to allow the county the option of posting legal advertisements online instead of in the local newspaper.



However, they had

PRIORITY | 5A



Business.....D1
Classifieds.....D4-7
Comics.....NEWS WIRE

Local Sports.....B1
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LPPD played Santa at Toy Giveaway

By **KIM LEATHERMAN**
STAFF WRITER

LAKE PLACID – Hundreds of parents with children in tow lined up at the Lake Placid Police station for the annual Christmas Toy Giveaway on Saturday morning. The children and parents were bundled up against the chilly morning breeze but were undeterred from the task at hand. The event was postponed because of the tornado watches in the area on Thursday, which was the day the event was originally scheduled for.

Bikes, dolls, stuffed animals, games and anything else a child could ask Santa for were crammed wall-to-wall inside the police station. The police department was turned into a veritable Toys 'R Us. The administration women and wives displayed the toys and played key roles, behind the scenes. According to Police Chief James Fansler, there



KIM LEATHERMAN/STAFF

Just a small sample of the toys, bikes and games at the LPPD Toy Giveaway.

was about \$700 in cash donated to the cause. The officers spent every last dime of it to supplement their already impressive haul of toys.

"Lake Placid residents never ceases to amaze me with their incredible generosity," Fansler said. "Whenever we need anything, all we ever have to do is ask and the need is met. Civic organizations and entire neighborhoods collected toys and cash

to donate. There were so many people who donated, I can't even begin to thank everyone. The giveaway would not be possible without this community."

As each family entered the facility, officers and administrators directed the flow of traffic between two rooms. They helped parents find the perfect gift they were looking for and gave children the toys they wanted.

Law enforcement is not always filled with light moments. But, for a few hours on Saturday, the children, parents and officers laughed and smiled with a common goal of making Christmas special.

The toy giveaway was started several years ago because the law enforcement officers did not want to see anyone go without at least a few toys under the tree on



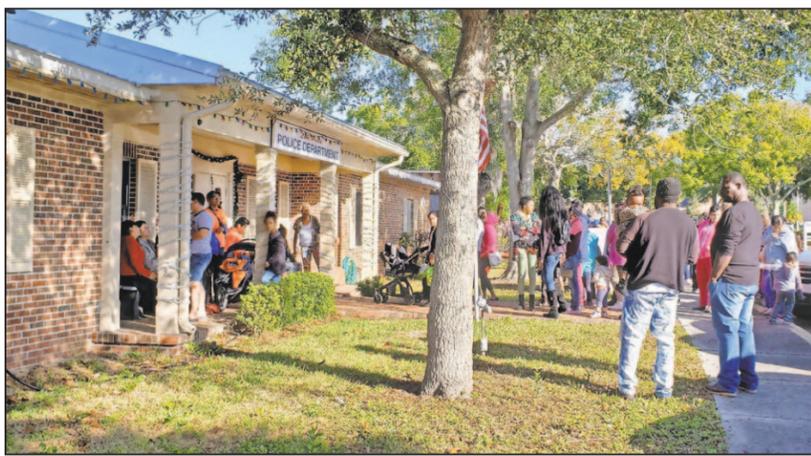
Lake Placid Police Chief James Fansler and Captain Mark Schneider show their soft sides.

Christmas morning. Every year the amount of toys and children increase.

Maria Perez was just one of hundreds of people in line. "This helps a lot," she

said. "I had a stroke two months ago and we really needed the help."

Perez added that while her husband works, it is still hard to find extra money for gifts this year.



The line to enter Toy Land was around the corner for the LPPD toy giveaway.

Unlicensed 'contractors' arrested

By **KIM LEATHERMAN**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Timothy Daniel Kiker, 40 and Stacey Renee Dutcher, 47, both of Avon Park were arrested on Tuesday, Dec. 17 by the Highlands County Sheriff's Office for misrepresenting themselves by performing the duties of a licensed contractor without being licensed.

They share identical charges, which are performing a mold assessment without a license, engaging in a contract without pollution storage system, larceny less than \$10,000 on a victim 65 years or older and fraud of under \$20,000.

In November, the Senior vs. Crime unit received a complaint from a senior citizen against Stacey's Pro Painting LLC. They turned the complaints over to detectives to investigate for criminal violations. They found them.

The victim provided deputies with several quotes from Stacey's Pro Painting and some also had c/o Tim Baldwin



KIKER



DUTCHER

Construction on them. The quotes had work that would need a special license or permits.

The first bid was not dated. It was for removing of dado, the lower part of a wall, because there was mold and spraying it with a mildicide. The report did not give a dollar amount on this bid.

Another bid dated July 26 was for reconstruction areas where the mold was and reinstalling cabinets, toilet and flooring with plumbing to be included for \$5,700. That bid had Stacey's Pro Painting and c/o Baldwin Construction Co.

According to the report, a separate quote dated Aug. 8 stated "resubmission for 'mold rebuild' — original price, \$5,700 — includes re-installation of electrical and plumbing — \$9,400."

Another Aug. 8 bid

was for Stacey's Pro Painting and Baldwin Construction for more mildicide treatments for \$7,375.

Detectives noted Kiker's signature did not match at times; he sometimes signed Baldwin. On Nov. 28, deputies attempted to reach the pair but neither one answered the phone even though both phones belonged to Dutcher.

The victim told deputies he paid the couple about \$10,000 but they still harassed him to pay more. The victim also told detectives that Dutcher originally introduced Kiker to him as Timothy Baldwin. The victim was able to pick out Dutcher and Kiker out of at least two lineups.

Kiker has had many court cases in the Highlands County Clerk of Courts since 1997, which include many traffic violations including driving on a suspended license, battery and theft.

Dutcher also has many cases in the Clerk of Courts website, from 2005 to 2015, mostly for traffic/vehicular violations and domestic cases.

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Filling the gaps

Fire Rescue announces appointments and promotions

By PHIL ATTINGER
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — After interviewing 11 applicants, Public Safety Director Marc Bashoor has hired Daniel Spillman, effective Jan. 2, as Deputy Fire Chief of Operations.

Spillman is a retired chief officer with the Tallahassee Fire Department who in his 35 years of fire service has served as fire chief for Escambia County, in the Florida State Fire Marshals Office and in multiple other chief officer and related positions throughout Florida.

Meanwhile, Jason Luke Andrews, who has served the last month as Acting Operations Deputy (Chief) for Highlands County Fire Rescue and who is currently an inspector with the county's fire marshal's office, has been promoted to shift fire battalion chief along with West Sebring Volunteer Assistant Chief William "Billy" Kingston. The third battalion chief will be Zack Smith, paramedic lieutenant hired out of Okeechobee County.

Andrews, who is currently an inspector with the county's fire marshal's office, has been promoted to shift fire battalion chief along with West Sebring Volunteer Assistant Chief William "Billy" Kingston. The third battalion chief will be Zack Smith, paramedic lieutenant hired out of Okeechobee County.

Andrews, who joined Highlands County Fire

Services in 1990 as a 14-year-old junior volunteer firefighter, has served the last 11 years as a firefighter and inspector in the Highlands County Office of the Fire Marshal, along with his recent Deputy Chief of Operations duties.

In the last 28 years, Andrews has held every rank up to volunteer chief of Sun 'N Lakes of Lake Placid Volunteer Fire Department.

Kingston has served as a volunteer with West Sebring Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years, also serving all ranks up to assistant chief. Kingston was hired earlier this year as one of Highlands County's new 40-hour full-time firefighters, under the single district funded by the recently-approved fire assessment.

Smith, currently with Okeechobee County Fire Rescue as a paramedic lieutenant, started in fire service with Okeechobee

City Fire Department as a volunteer, and has served both the city and county for just short of 20 years.

Starting Jan. 7, 2019, Highlands County's current OPS firefighter Larry Money will get promoted to shift lieutenant. Like quite a few firefighters in Highlands County, he started his career as a volunteer firefighter, but also had a full-time paid job with another department. He was a firefighter with the City of Hialeah Fire Department. He later retired from that job after 23 years.

Money also spent four years with the Ocean Reef Public Safety Department Logistics Division. In all, Larry brings in 28 years of paid and volunteer experience. Also hired and promoted, starting Jan. 7, is José Ibanez. A volunteer officer with the Lake Placid Volunteer Fire Department and a career firefighter in Hardee County, he will join Highlands County

Fire Rescue as a shift lieutenant.

Todd Barton is another hire-in from Hardee promoted to shift lieutenant, starting Jan. 9. The Hardee County firefighter has previously served Highlands County as OPS Paramedic.

Bashoor, who also serves as chief of Fire Rescue, said on Dec. 14 that he hopes to have the deputy chief and battalion chiefs "up on the floor" by the first of the year.

Once they're in place, he can bring in the full-time firefighters, Bashoor said.

Bashoor expects to announce soon the 24-hour

shift firefighter assignments very soon. By Jan. 21, he hopes to have this group of new lieutenants and firefighters operating out of Sun 'N Lake of Lake Placid Station 41 for 24-hours per day, seven days per week to help cover the far southern end of the county along with Venus Fire Department.

One of the reasons county commissioners agreed in July to make the leap to a fire assessment and paid firefighter force in this year's budget.

Bashoor, who is also working to consolidate fire and emergency medical services, has said he will

soon hire a few emergency medical technicians and paramedics into Fire Rescue, as soon as they finish their certification process.

Bashoor has likened the process to knocking down dominoes or sand pouring through an hourglass: Things set up for a while are falling into place.

"Part of this job is to keep them falling in the right place," Bashoor said Dec. 14. "Christmas is going to be a busy time and not because it's Christmas, but because (I've) got a lot of dominoes coming together."

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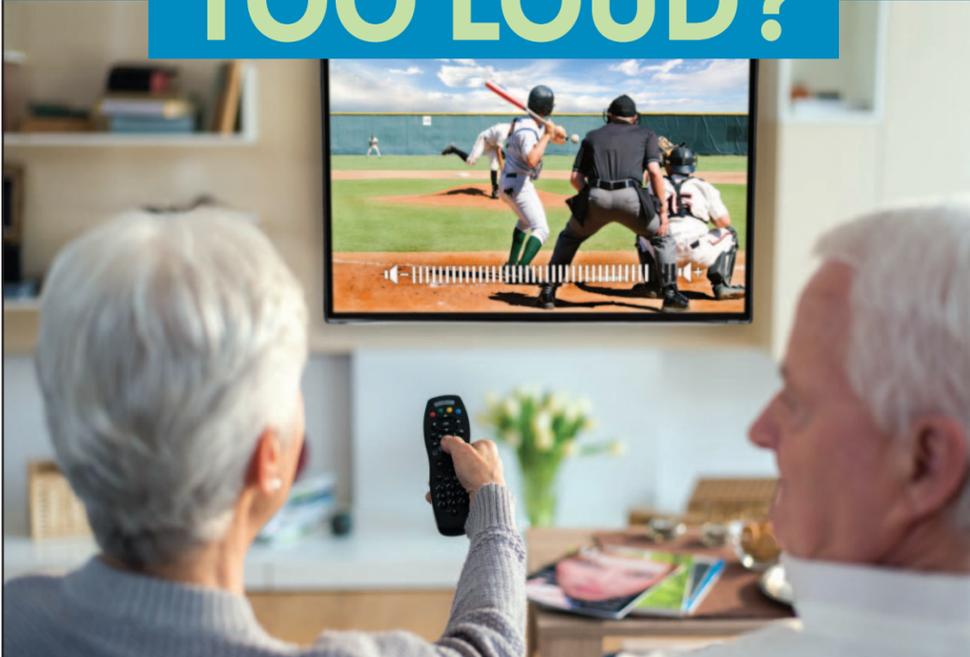
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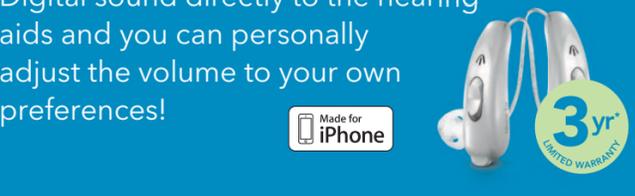
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CRAFTS

FROM PAGE 1A

Sales account manager Vickie Watson recalls making egg ornaments when she was just a girl. These are also good at Easter time. Here's how she did it. Take a needle and poke a hole in the top and bottom of the egg with a tiny nail or sewing needle. Blow the egg white and yolk into a bowl — save for making scrambled eggs! Thread a ribbon through the holes and roll the egg in glue then glitter, feathers or other fun materials. Hang from a tree or leaves.

Page designer Megan Smith enjoyed decorating her son's stocking with him last year with glitter and glue. Her then 4 year old was a bit too young to write his own name, so his mom did it. The youngster then shook on



METRO CREATIVE IMAGES

Beads and pipe cleaners lead to cheap and crafty fun for any Christmas project.

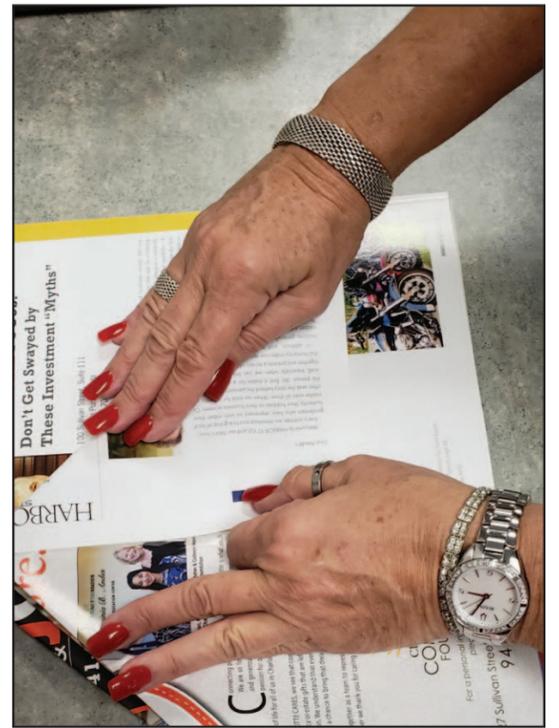
glitter that stuck to the glue. After shaking off the excess glitter, his name was revealed and the little boy

was thrilled.

Graphic artist Kathy Lowie has fond memories that involve pipe cleaners

and red and white pony beads. Simply make a "J" shape with the pipe cleaner and alternate the red and white beads until they are full the "J" shape. Crimp up the last little bit on both ends of the "cane" so the beads do not fall off. This can work for cross and snowflake shapes as well.

How about trying a new to us tasty craft? Legals and Classifieds Clerk



KIM LEATHERMAN/STAFF

Christmas trees made from a magazine starts off with a turn of the page.

Janet Emerson tried out a new idea for the office Christmas party — a sort of antipasto Christmas tree with olives, cheese and pepperoni speared with toothpicks into a tree-shaped styrofoam form. She got the idea from social media. Emerson

said she was surprised by how much work it was. This should be easy for youngsters with clean hands. Wink, wink.

No matter what craft strikes your fancy, the Highlands News-Sun staff hopes you enjoy Christmas with loved ones.

PRIORITY

FROM PAGE 1A

plenty of discussion about the now-deleted request to allow the county to sell asphalt. Road and Bridge Director Kyle Green told the Highlands News-Sun he gets 20-30 calls a year from private citizens and local businesses wanting to purchase asphalt from the county plant versus an asphalt company.

County Administrator Randy Vosburg said the item was on the priorities list this time as a way of helping local businesses. Also, Green told commissioners that both DeSoto and Okeechobee counties have asked him if he could sell asphalt to them for road projects.

State law doesn't allow that, however. After Highlands County bought its own \$3.3 million asphalt plant in 2008 in an effort to save costs, the asphalt production industry lobbied against allowing any sales from that plant to private entities.

Senators and representatives tried to prohibit local governments from buying or operating an asphalt or concrete plant, and two county commissioners at that time wanted to close and sell the plant.

The county was supposed to save and make money on the deal, as well as be less dependent on expensive, often unavailable aggregate from commercial suppliers.

There was also hope that the plant would be profitable, and that never happened, but the county made good use of the asphalt on all the roads that need paving or repair in the county. Green, at the time, called it a "break-even proposition."

On Tuesday, commissioners agreed lobbying for an exception in their case would cost too much and be a difficult position to hold, since Highlands County has the only county-owned asphalt plant in the state.

Commission Chair Jim Brooks said that if DeSoto and Okeechobee counties have lobbyists, maybe they could craft a legislation proposal on the matter. He asked if Highlands County has a lobbyist, and Vosburg said the county's lobbying needs are too few and not often enough to justify having one on retainer.

It wouldn't hurt to get some prices, Brooks suggested.

"I'm not a huge fan of lobbyists in general," Commissioner Don Elwell said. "In this political climate, they are a necessary evil."

Brooks asked if the county would need to put out bids for one, but Vosburg pointed out that

lobbyists are exempt under Florida law from having to go through the competitive bid process.

Also on the list of legislative priorities for the county are:

- Change the Consultants Competitive Negotiations Act that would raise the threshold for bidding contracts above \$2 million, which would let existing contracts stay in place below that level.
- Expedite reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, since small counties like Highlands County have suffered economic hardship from responding to disasters immediately, and then waiting months or years for reimbursement.
- Continue funding commitments to financially constrained counties.
- Index local option fuel taxes to adjust with the Consumer Price Index.
- Maintain a growth cap of 50 percent for the County Medicare Cost fund.
- Adopt the Pro Board or Center for Public Safety Excellence credentials for volunteers and new hires, giving local agencies a wider field of talent beyond the "Florida-only" pool.
- Protect and increase fund levels to high-valued programs and revenue sharing programs that help small counties and communities.

- Fund water projects that protect and enhance water quality and increase water supply for rural counties.
- Increase funds for rural infrastructure projects either by targeted funding for rural projects in the Florida Job Growth Grant fund or increasing funding to the Rural Infrastructure Program.
- Increase funding and reimbursement to rural Florida health departments that provide primary and dental care and to health-related transportation systems in small counties.
- Ensure full-funding of state-mandated requirements of the School Safety Act, or alter the requirements to allow for local flexibility in providing safe schools.

Elwell also suggested, with the pending change in political climate in Tallahassee from Governor-elect Ron DeSantis, that there might not be the "line-item" vetoes popular with Gov. Rick Scott.

It might be wise for the county to promote an economic development project, such as lengthening the runway at Sebring Regional Airport, an "economic driver for this area," Elwell said.

"It's worth a shot," Brooks said.

Former Highlands News-Sun staff writer Gary Pinnell contributed to this report.



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SUN

ANOTHER VIEW

On environment, DeSantis can't be all hollow promise

There is reason for hope that incoming Gov. Ron DeSantis will reverse the unfortunate course of the Scott administration and restore environmental protection to its rightful place as a top priority of state government.

In one of the governor-elect's first actions, DeSantis sought to set an agenda with a 40-person Transition Advisory Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture. The group will hold its final meeting Dec. 28, 12 days before DeSantis is sworn in.

The expectation is it will recommend legislative priorities that will fast-track environmental programs we believe are badly needed: A fix for Lake Okeechobee, quick movement to mitigate red tide, assistance with septic-to-sewer conversion, greater funding for beach restoration and environmental land preservation.

Notably, DeSantis has called himself a "Teddy Roosevelt conservationist," a reference repeated by U.S. Rep. Brian Mast, R-Palm City, who heads the transition panel.

That's an encouraging sign, but the bully sloganeering has to be backed up with trust-building action.

We hope DeSantis goes out of his way to disprove skeptics who point to his dismal voting record in Congress on issues considered vital by environmental groups. DeSantis was given a score of two out of 100 by the national League of Conservation Voters – barely better than zilch.

"The facts and his own record suggests (an environmental activist DeSantis) may not be the case," Aliko Mocrief, head of Florida Conservation Voters, told Gatehouse Media.

It's time to show, not boast. Florida needs a realignment of priorities.

We recognize that Gov. Rick Scott faced special circumstances when he came into office eight years ago. Florida's economy was dragging the depths of a recession. Scott focused on jobs and economic growth, with positive results.

But his cost-cutting and commerce-boosting policies came with a cost, and one that will grow as the state is forced to deal with problems caused by a changing climate. One necessary first step for the "Teddy Roosevelt conservationist" would be to acknowledge the potential impacts of climate change on Florida's population and its environment. Then, naturally, to take steps toward mitigation, something Scott was unwilling to do.

Immediately, the state must address Lake Okeechobee: The run-off pollution that creates the blue-green algae that collects in the lake and is released into rivers, then oozes green slime to both coasts. It's an environmental disaster that harms Florida's economy.

In the Gatehouse interview, DeSantis pledged to speed funding for a reservoir south of the lake – something that was desperately needed but delayed – and also to ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce lake levels and hold back discharges of algae-filled lake water.

Then comes the issue that has dominated life along our coast for the past year: red tide.

DeSantis promised to form a task force that will examine the causes of red tide and programs that might counteract or forestall future algae blooms.

This must be done as quickly as possible, and it cannot be an all-show-and-no-go PR exercise. Get the best science and take real steps to mitigate a problem that damages our special environment, our enjoyment of that environment and an economy that depends on it.

Bottom line: If DeSantis is going to call himself a Teddy Roosevelt, he's got to charge like a bull moose and seize the high ground.

An editorial from the Charlotte Sun.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Letters are welcome on virtually any subject, but we do have some rules. We will not accept any Letters to the Editor that mention a business in a negative tone, as they have no means to defend themselves. Please keep Letters to the Editor to less than 250 words. Letters will be edited to length as well as for grammar and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name – not initials. An address and telephone number must be included. The phone number and address are not for publication, but must be provided. In the case of letters that are emailed, the same rules apply.

Due to the number of letters received, we are able to run only four letters per person per month.

The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discourse, and the opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. The newspaper takes no responsibility for the content of these letters.



App helps you stay in touch with HCSO

I am sure that most people have a smartphone these days. If you do, I would like to encourage you to download the Highlands County Sheriff's Office app. It is a great way to stay informed about what is going on at your Sheriff's Office. And it's free, too.

This mobile app is an innovative approach to help our community stay tuned to important news and resources from the Sheriff's Office. Once you download the app onto your smartphone, you can receive important alerts/push notifications, news and information.

The app works on both Apple and Android devices. You can use it to see where sex offenders in our county live, check who is in jail, see our



FROM THE SHERIFF
Paul Blackman

most wanted list and a lot more.

It is not just a one-way communication tool. Yes, we use it as a way to give the public information, but the public can also give us information by leaving us tips through the app with the ability to leave a GPS location and photos if you would like. And you can be completely anonymous, too.

We have already gotten several good tips through the app, and have used

it to send out important information about things like missing persons and road closures.

While we also publish the same information on our social media sites, the benefit of a push alert through the app is that you will be notified when there is important information rather than having to go look for it on Facebook or Twitter. Would you rather know that your route home is blocked due to a crash before you leave work, or see the info while you are looking at Facebook on your phone as you sit in a traffic jam?

Other important features include inmate visitation information, agency contacts, Animal Services information and pets available for

adoption, information on cold cases, fee structures and public records information.

Search for the Highlands County Sheriff's Office in either the iPhone App Store or the Google Play store (for Android devices) so that you can have this important tool on your phone.

Before I go, I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to be your sheriff and wish each and every one of you a happy holiday season and a very happy and safe new year.

Paul Blackman is the Highlands County sheriff. Email him at pblackman@highlandssheriff.org Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily that of the Highlands News-Sun.

News flash: The apple doesn't fall far from the Tyree

Sentimental fool that I am, a recent change in my son's extracurricular activities was like an early Christmas gift.

Gideon has joined the staff of his school's newly launched (online) newspaper, the Cornersville (Tennessee) High School "Paw Prints."

Since I cut my journalistic eyeteeth at my junior high, high school and college newspapers, Gideon's decision was heart-warming — and much safer than two klutzy individuals seeking father-son bonding via athletic roughhousing. ("Don't panic — I remember reading a book that tells what to do if you get a football caught in your esophagus...")

I'm so proud. Gideon is following in his old man's footprints (or following in his old man's Slime Trail, depending on your opinion of the press).

When I was a campus writer, we journalism nerds viewed ourselves as budding Woodwards and Bernsteins. No one could take away our First Amendment rights to inform the public. The band nerds could take away



TYRADES
Danny Tyree

our Lunch Money, but no one could take away our First Amendment rights to inform the public.

For the first issue of "Paw Prints," Gideon has contributed a witty essay about obscure December holidays, as well as the first installment of a painstakingly drawn comic strip about a dystopian future. And not the usual teenager dystopian future. ("What? I'll someday have to pay my own phone bill and cable bill? What terrorist nation caused this?")

Gideon stays abreast of the political scene, but someone else was assigned to write the opinion piece. I expect a lot from Cornersville editorial writers, but not every school promotes such lively debate. ("Whatever." "I was, like, whatever First." "You're Literally making my

whatever explode...")

I hope faculty advisers will adhere to strict journalistic ethics and not be pushovers, like some teachers are in the classroom. ("Teacher, I was technically incorrect with that scoop about the cafeteria lady being a former KGB assassin, but don't I get bonus points for this cool font?")

I hope the staff realizes just how wonderful today's resources are. When I look back at my printed school newspapers, I realize they were saddled with bulky paragraphs, tiny print and watered-down ink. It's interesting to contrast my generation's two main sources of breaking news: the bathroom wall ("For a good time, call Drusilla") and the student newspaper ("For herniated retinas, read the newspaper").

With online publication, the staff can update scores or make retractions in a timely fashion. No more gossip columns being comically out of date by the time they reach the public. Of course, modern couples present their own

problems. ("Well, yeah, like Jenny dumped me; but I still identify as being her main squeeze.")

With online publication, the staff has the luxury of sharing almost-unlimited amounts of crisp, color digital photographs and even spicing up the pages with audio and video. (Back in the day, the only audio was the sound of 500 students murmuring, "Trees had to die to print Tyree's crap?")

I can imagine investigative reporters capturing incriminating admissions in the teachers' lounge. ("Yeah, I get massive injections of Botox, so I can keep a straight face when I tell the students how Captain Ahab will be useful to them in the Real World.")

Best wishes to budding journalists at Cornersville and everywhere. You may never get rich; but then, there's less chance of somebody mugging you with a tuba.

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

TRADITION

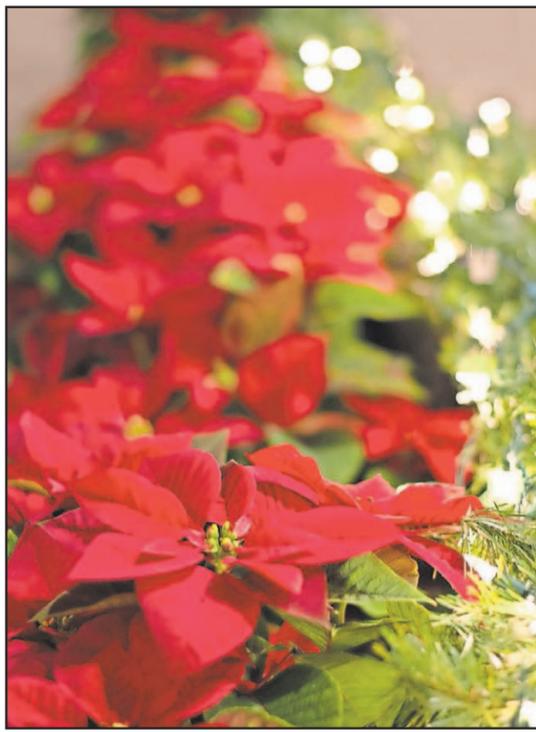
FROM PAGE 1A

said the most important part of the holiday was gathering with friends and family.

"Some traditions have changed and evolved with the passing of family members in recent years," Vivian Raffeala Kasley said. "We have always tried to gather as a family even if that was the one thing we got to do and have a big, delicious meal with prime rib being the centerpiece."

Several people indicated their church played a big role in their holiday traditions. "We spend Christmas with our family as well as our church family," Mark Conner said. "Avon Lakes Baptist has many programs leading up to Christmas."

"My favorite Christmas activity is the Christmas Eve service at my church," Cora Schwengel said. "I always remember growing up and our celebrations began with the



KEVIN MAIN/CORRESPONDENT

Families and churches decorate with poinsettias during the Christmas season. At local churches, people often purchase them in honor or memory of a loved one.

church service followed by opening presents at my grandmother's house. "Tod and I place an

emphasis on our family being at the Christmas Eve service," Schwengel said. "The service pulls us together and puts things in perspective, because we celebrate Jesus' birth, and we also have communion, which reminds us of his death and his reason for coming to earth."

Residents living in Highlands County often have roots in our other countries and carry on celebrations from that area.

"I moved to Sebring from southwest Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, in August of 1978," Cindy Maxon said. "I carry on my mom's Polish tradition on Christmas Eve to do a meatless meal ... We all pass oplatek, or Christmas wafer with honey, around to share with each other as well

as a piece of apple and tangerine. Then we eat a candy or cookie with nuts in it."

The traditional meal, which her grandparents brought over from Poland, symbolizes elements of the birth of Christ.

The bright Florida sunshine and the joy that comes from assembling around the table with family and friends create special Christmas memories that warm the hearts of Highlands County residents all year long.

KEVIN MAIN/CORRESPONDENT

Christmas trees are decorated with ornaments that have special memories or meaning to family members. Some families have more than one tree and others have a special tree that the children decorate.



Pines Bay VH Hospital temporarily closed

The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System's (BPVAHCS) Sebring Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Sebring will temporarily be closed due to a watermain break.

Veterans impacted by the closure will be contacted by VA staff

to reschedule their appointments as soon as possible. In the event of a medical and mental health emergency, Veterans are encouraged to dial 911 or visit the closest emergency room.

If you are a Veteran in crisis — or you're concerned about one — free, confidential

support is available 24/7. Call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, send a text message to 838255 or chat online.

More information will be provided when it becomes available. For questions, please call 727-398-6661, extension 17914.

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After school tennis classes being offered

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN
SPORTS STAFF

After school tennis classes are being offered at the Thakkar Tennis Center at the Country Club of Sebring. The classes run from Jan. 7 to Feb. 1, and are for youngsters ages 4-18 and are run by USPTA certified professional Horace Watkis. The four-week sessions which include one session a week, are

for any skill level. Tiny Tots, ages 4-6, are on Tuesday's from 3:15 to 4 p.m. and the cost is \$37. Future Champs, ages 6-12, are any day of the week from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and the cost is \$45. Pre-Tournament Academy is Wednesday's from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the cost is \$60. High School Team level is Thursday's from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the cost is \$60.

For more information, call Watkis at 863-414-2164 or 863-386-4282. Email is horacewatkis@hotmail.com.

Sebring Senior Softball
Sign up now for Sebring senior softball. If you were born in 1950 or before you are eligible for the over 70 league. Call John Kloet at 414-2926 or Bill Todd 385-5632.

To sign up for the 50 and over league call Gary Kindle at

835-2405. Starting time for 70 league is 10 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. The 50 and over league plays at noon on Tuesday and Thursday. Games to be played at Highland County Sports Complex.

Lake Placid Senior Softball

The Lake Placid Senior Softball League is currently practicing for the 2019 season on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. at the Lake June

Ballfield. Interested men 60 and over should come with their bat, glove, and enthusiasm to sign up and get in shape for the upcoming season which will run from January through March. League games will be played at the County Sports Complex. For further league information please visit lpsoftball.com.

Half Marathon, 5K

The Friends of Highlands Hammock

State Park will present the 11th Annual Highlands Hammock Half Marathon & 5K at the park on Saturday, January 19 with a 7:30 a.m. start for both distances.

The Central Florida Striders running club under the direction of Chet Brojek will manage race timing and scoring. All proceeds from the event will benefit park

TENNIS | 7B



HIGHLANDS BASS ANGLER
Dave Douglass

Strong full moon turns on fish

The Freshwater Fishing Forecast for the last full week of December gives anglers the second half of a very strong full moon phase and a seasonal winter weather forecast. All fishing factors considered; fish will be feeding above normal rates for the current temperature range as the full moon's effect creates concentrations of active feeders.

The full moon occurred yesterday and the orbit perigee occurs Monday, creating a very strong full moon phase. Next month on January 21 and again on February 19, a super full moon will occur and if water temperatures climb back into the seventies for either of those two lunar periods, you can expect the best Florida winter fishing possible.

The weather forecast predicts a weak northeasterly wind today through Tuesday, however today the atmospheric pressure will climb slightly more than the winter seasonal average of 0.085 In Hg, triggering upward movement into feeding areas during the midnight and midday hours.

As with any full moon phase, the cloud-cover factor moves front and center in the angler's planning. The current full moon has been shining bright and is forecasted to continue so you can expect the majority of feeding fish to have a high level of success during the midnight hours.

Today through Tuesday the daytime angler can expect the midday feeding activity to be the best action of the day—nowhere near that of midnight. However it will not be near as good as it would be if there was significant nighttime cloud-cover.

During winter strong full moon phases, fish feed heaviest when the moon shines unimpeded by cloud-cover as the moon becomes overhead in the sky. And during the winter temperatures, fish species feed closer to a twelve-hour heavy feeding-cycle than the normal six-hour moderate feeding cycle of a new moon phase during the other three seasons.

This means the sunrise and sunset feeding migrations will be weak at best over the next three days. And conversely the midday and midnight feeding periods will produce well-above-average feeding activity.

For the midweek, water temperatures will

MOON | 4B

Red Devils ease past Blue Streaks



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

Avon Park's Asiah Dewberry pushes her way past Sebring's Emily Bible. The Red Devils defeated the Blue Streaks in the rivalry match.

Sebring falls short in a rivalry match against Avon Park

By RUTH ANNE LAWSON
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING – The rivalry between Avon Park and Sebring has been around for decades. When the Blue Streaks and Red Devils collide it is always entertaining and with bragging rights on the line, the battles are intense. Friday night was no different when Sebring hosted Avon Park in ladies basketball. The Red Devils eased past the Blue Streaks with a final score of 60-30 raising Avon Park's record to 5-2 while Sebring's record drops to 3-9.

The first period did not get off to a good start. Avon Park's Asiah Dewberry was immediately fouled and sent to the line where she made one of two free throws just seconds into

the game. The Red Devil's Da'Shayla Hawthorne sank a jump shot putting Avon Park up 3-0. Hawthorne charged down court and passed to Tajenay Vassell who was under the net and made a layup for two points extending Avon Park's lead to 5-0.

Sebring's Mykerriya Brown made a layup, cutting the deficit to 5-2 with 5:25 left in the first period. Avon Park's Dewberry made a shot off the glass and also made a free throw expanding the Red Devils lead to 8-2. Avon Park's Hawthorne charged down the open court and made a layup. Vassell was sent to the line and made a free throw for Avon Park, extending the Red Devils lead to 11-2.

DEVILS | 2B



Sebring's Mykerriya Brown charged down court to an open net where she sank a bucket. The Red Devils eased past the Blue Streaks in Friday night's rivalry game.

Fantasy football titles on the line

Right decisions could win you the championship

By JOE GALLINA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A look at some key fantasy football questions and answers for title matchups in Week 16:

Week 16 is championship week in most fantasy football leagues, and we don't recommend you making many wholesale changes to your lineup.

However, Josh Allen has scored the most fantasy points per game (FPPG) among QBs over the past four weeks. He faces the Patriots, who've given up the ninth most

FPPG to the position. The built-in cushion his rushing stats provide make him a player with a high floor.

Don't write off Ravens RB Gus Edwards just yet. Yes, Kenneth Dixon played more snaps than Edwards in Week 15, but Edwards continues to get more red zone opportunities than Dixon. Baltimore takes on the Chargers, who've given up five rushing TDs over the past three weeks.

The Packers have allowed the fourth-most FPPG to WRs and they take on the Jets this week. Quincy Enunwa

has already been ruled out, making Robby Anderson a WR with upside. Anderson has averaged just over eight targets in his past three games and has scored a TD in two straight.

With Bengals WR A.J. Green already on injured reserve and Tyler Boyd highly unlikely to play this week, tight end C.J. Uzomah should get more of QB Jeff Driskel's attention. The Bengals take on the Browns, who've given up the fourth-most FPPG to TEs as well as the most receptions to the position.

CHIEFS RB

Spencer Ware seems like he's on track to play against the Seahawks on Sunday but he's likely to be limited. Even with Ware in the lineup back in Week 14, Damien Williams managed rushing and receiving scores. Although TDs are difficult to predict, coming off of his big Week 15 Williams should still have a fairly significant role in the Chiefs backfield. The Seahawks have allowed the seventh-most catches to RBs and catching passes out of the backfield

FANTASY | 3B

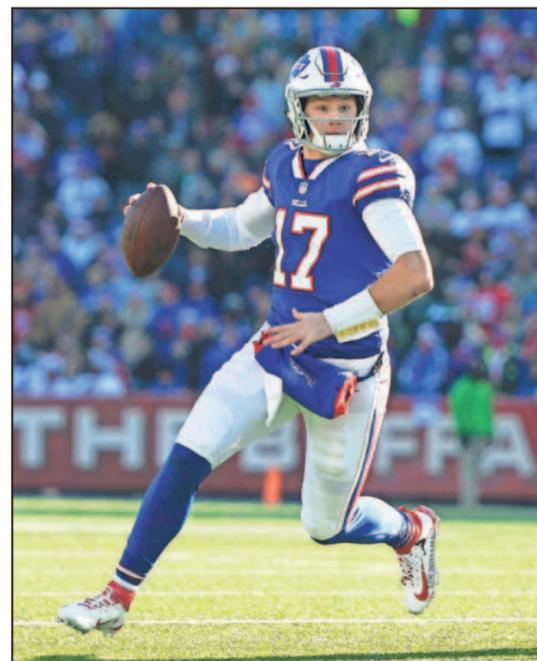


PHOTO BY ADRIAN KRAUS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen is a risky option in fantasy football in today's game against the New England Patriots.



Avon Park's Da'Shayla Hawthorne drives her way past Sebring's Johnneisha Rowe in Friday night's rivalry match where the Red Devils slipped past the Blue Streaks.

DEVILS
FROM PAGE 1B

With time running out in the first quarter Sebring's Isabella Lambert made a basket but Avon Park's Hawthorne answered back with a jump shot bringing the score to 13-4 at the end of the first period.

"We are a little bit out of sync," said Avon Park Coach Paulette Daley. "We weren't rebounding, weren't doing things like we should have and we got into foul trouble. It threw our chemistry off and you could see it. We were just out of it. Asiah Dewberry got into foul trouble but she pulled it through for us. We don't have the numbers this season and when we get into foul trouble it hurts us. As the season goes by we will get better."

In the second period the battle continued. Avon Park's Keke Williams and Dewberry each made jump shots while Sebring's Lambert sank a free throw bringing the score to 15-5. Laura Gibson made a shot off the glass for Avon Park. Sebring's Brown made a basket and Johnneisha Rowe followed, chopping away at the deficit bringing the score to 19-9 with 3:10 left in the first half.

Avon Park's Hawthorne boosted the Red Devils lead with a pair of jump shots. Sebring rallies with seconds left in the half. Brown passed to Emily Bible who was under the net and made a layup for the Blue Streaks. Sebring's Rowe sank a 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded cutting the deficit to 23-14 at the end of the first half.

The Blue Streaks came out strong in the third period. Sebring's Alana Lambert went two for two at the free throw line and ZiYanah Massaline made a layup narrowing the deficit to 23-18. Avon Park's Vassell made a layup and Sebring's Rowe answered back with a layup.

The Red Devils' Dewberry made a free throw and Williams went on a run making two layups and a rebound adding to Avon Park's lead, bringing it to 32-20. Sebring's Brown and Massaline each made a free throw reducing Avon Park's lead to 32-22. The Red Devils once again expand their lead with a shot from Hawthorne and a free throw by Williams. At the end of the third Avon Park held their lead with a score of 35-22.

Sebring continued to fight until the end. Sebring's Brown stole the ball and charged down court for a layup and also added a jump shot. Blue Streaks' Rowe made a bucket off the glass while Hawthorne and Massaline each made a free throw. Rowe and Brown led the Blue Streaks in points with a total of nine each.

Avon Park's Williams and Aaliyah Brown each made shots off the glass. Vassell charged down the open court twice for

a pair of layups, sank a 3-pointer and went 2-for-2 at the free throw line. Vassell led the Red Devils in points with a total of 14 for the night. Gibson and Dewberry each made three buckets. Dewberry and Williams each made a total of 11 points for Avon Park. The Red Devils slid past Sebring for a 60-30 victory.

"We played pretty good in the first and second quarter, but then we threw the ball away," said Sebring Coach Jackie Childs. "We have to work on turnovers and free throw shooting. We are rebuilding and they are learning. They never give



Sebring's Johnneisha Rowe passes the ball during Friday night's game. The Blue Streaks fell short to the Avon Park Red Devils.

up but we have to keep working at it. We are missing players and it is hurting us.

Genesis Gonzalez will be back in January and hopefully Paxton Brooks will be okay, Brooks is out with an injury. They gave it their all tonight and I hate to see them lose. Isabella Lambert pulled out a lot of rebounds and did well with her free throws. MyKerriya Brown did well tonight but her free throws killed us. Johnneisha Rowe had a good game and made a few steals. We have

a tough team. We will practice during break and keep working. It is tough losing to a rival. I think we got intimidated by the press that they have but we hung with them."

The Sebring Blue Streaks and Avon Park Red Devils will be back in action after Christmas break. The Blue Streaks will travel to Lake Region on Thursday, Jan. 3 to face the Thunder at 7 p.m. Avon Park will host the McKeel Academy Wildcats on Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 8 p.m.



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

Sebring's Emily Bible shoots the ball as Avon Park's Asiah Dewberry rams into her. The Red Devils edged the Blue Streaks in Friday night's rivalry game.

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FANTASY

FROM PAGE 1B

is one of Williams' specialties.

DOLPHINS RB

Don't let Titans RB Derrick Henry's Week 14 238-yard performance fool you, the Jaguars defense is tough against the run. It's likely that neither Kevin Ballage nor Kenyon Drake have big weeks, but Ballage should have volume on his side. Ballage out-carried Drake by a 12 to 1 margin in Week 15 and he wasn't even the Dolphins starting RB. Be wary of overrating Ballage's 123-yard rushing performance from Week 15. Consider that 75 yards of it came on one play.

WR MIKE WILLIAMS

Williams took advantage of a good matchup against the Chiefs in Week 15 and rewarded his fantasy owners with three TDs. He takes on the Ravens, who've given up the fourth fewest FPPG to WRs. Williams averaged 63 receiving yards and a TD per game after Week 3 and looked like he'd develop into a potential low-end WR2. However, he inexplicably faded for most of the rest of the season. His inconsistency, tough Week 16 matchup, and the fact that Chargers WR Keenan Allen may play this week make Williams a player to avoid.

DREW BREES

Brees has averaged 177 passing yards and threw two TDs and three interceptions in his last three games, all on the road. He's playing at home against the Steelers, who have given up the eighth most FPPG to QBs over the past four weeks. Brees has some pretty striking home/road splits which make him a good bounce-back candidate this week. Brees averages just under 321 passing yards per game and has 9.77 yards per pass attempt (Y/A) in his home games. On the road, he averages just under 218 passing yards and just 6.88 Y/A.

MARLON MACK

The Colts win more games when Luck has fewer pass attempts. Mack led Colts RBs in snaps percentage played and carries in Week 15. Luck only had to throw



PHOTO BY JASON E. MICZEK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees (9) is a good starting option in fantasy football this week at home against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

the ball 27 times as they shut out the Cowboys in Week 15. The Giants run defense was smothered by Titans RBs last week as they rushed for 205 yards and scored two TDs. The Giants also give up the fifth-most FPPG to RBs.

PATRIOTS

The only Patriots receiver that can be trusted in your fantasy lineups this week is Julian Edelman. Chris Hogan and Phillip Dorsett could get more targets but their season-long inconsistency makes them risky starts. In addition, the Bills give up the sixth-fewest FPPG to WRs, making it more likely that the Patriots will run the ball a bit more this week.

TODD GURLEY

There's no question that Gurley has an underlying injury that will potentially limit his production. His progress needs to be monitored as game time approaches. Be prepared to bench him if need be. He's rushed for 55 or fewer yards in three of his last four games and while he has a plus matchup in a very winnable game against the Cardinals, don't be surprised if the Rams limit Gurley's snaps or even make him inactive. They might want to ensure he's healthy for their real life playoff run. If Gurley is forced to sit, his backup John Kelly would be the preferred play. The Cardinals give up the fourth-most FPPG.

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MOON

FROM PAGE 1B

have recovered back into the low seventy degree range for a daily high, and a weak low-pressure system will be arriving with a moderate easterly wind. Thursday winds switch out of the southeast and produce rainfall through Friday. By Saturday's last quarter moon phase, fishing will be at full speed.

Best Fishing Days: Even though the recent cold front will slow down feeding activity over the next three to four days, this current very strong full moon phase, due to the lunar perigee, will still cause greater-than-normal feeding activity for the present water temperature in the lower sixty degree range.

I predict fish will feed primarily influenced by the strong bright full moon today through Tuesday. And it is very possible, most likely in fact, that during solar noon when the moon is underfoot, that feeding activity is weak or perhaps fair at best. The difference in midnight and midday feed ratings is three to four points—3-4 to 6-7 ratings.

The Major Fishing Period: Today the moon is overhead at 12:55 a.m. and will produce a feed rating intensity of 6-8 from 11 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Daily this period moves later by an hour.

The Minor Fishing Periods: Today the moonset occurs at 7:59 a.m. and the sunrise at 7:13 a.m. and will create a feed intensity rating

of 3-4 from 6:30-8:30 a.m. The second minor period occurs during solar noon at 12:26 p.m. and when the moon is underfoot at 1:26 p.m. creating a feed intensity rating of 3-4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prime Monthly Periods: December 23-24 full moon, January 3-8 new moon, 19-23 super full moon, February 2-6 new moon, 17-21 super full moon.

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Istokpoga.info News: The lake level is at 39.35 feet above sea level, which is 1.5 inches below the seasonal-annual high level of 39.50". The minimum level currently is

38.75'. Saturday at 4 a.m. all S68 spillway gates are closed.

Visit Istokpoga.info website and click on the links to the South Florida Water Mgmt. (SFWMD) real time S68 and S68X spillway gates status webpage. You'll find water level and flow status data of all water-way structures from Kissimmee to Clewiston. Also provided is a link to the Army Corps of Engineers' graphical plot, annual water-management schedule website link.

Access this article online at BassFishingForecast.com, or HighlandsBassAngler.com

Fishing from Shorelines: Learn where the deeper water comes closest to shorelines by consulting a lake contour map. There are forty-five Highlands County lake maps published online at FloridaLakesMaps.com. Each map is edited to include boat ramp locations and have been

enlarged for easy reading. You'll discover that the majority of the lakes' public boat ramps and docks are located within the better shoreline fishing areas.

HighlandsBassAngler.com offers bass fishing guide-trip options, 72 lake-contour maps and additional map sources, and fishing philosophy. Personalized custom fishing package options for beginners to professional anglers are available upon request.

Dave Douglass is a bass fishing guide and teacher on twenty-five lakes, from the towns Kissimmee to Clewiston. Visit HighlandsBassAngler.com for complete details. Phone: 863-381-8474. Email: DavidPDouglass@hotmail.com

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Biggest disappointments of NFL season

Bell, Gruden at top of the list

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The hype trains touting NFL offseason activity typically start leaving their stations each January, when new head coaches are hired and fan bases are fired up about the fresh start that sends hope soaring high like the football in the air on the opening kickoff of a game.

There's another round of departures in March, when the biggest-buck free agent contracts are signed to put some of the highest-profile players in the league on new teams snatching up missing pieces to their Super Bowl puzzles. Then, the first-round draft picks clamber aboard at the end of April.

By December, well, the derailments are inevitable.

From Le'Veon Bell to Jon Gruden to Leonard Fournette, here's a pick-six of the biggest disappointments in the NFL this year:

NO-SHOW

The millions of fantasy football players who snagged Bell for a seeming bargain in their auctions and drafts would wholeheartedly agree, though the Pittsburgh Steelers survived the absence of the two-time All-Pro running back due to the emergence of James Conner and, most recently, Jaylen Samuels.

Bell bet on himself, steadfastly refusing to sign his franchise tender without the promise of a contract extension one of the sport's most dangerous positions and ultimately accepting his ineligibility for the season. The Steelers didn't blink, either, and Bell will assumedly restart his career with another team in 2019.

CHALLENGE FOR CHUCKY

The Oakland Raiders, eyeing an eventual move to Las Vegas, gave Jon Gruden a 10-year contract worth about \$100 million to return to the franchise he got his start with as a head coach.

The Raiders are in this for the long haul, after burning through nine head coaches in the 16 seasons that passed after Gruden shed his silver and black. Their 3-11 record two years after a 12-4 finish, however, is a shaker of salt in the wound for the Bay Area loyalists on the verge of losing their team. Watching traded stars Khalil Mack and Amari Cooper thrive elsewhere has only made this season hurt worse. No team has

been easier to score on this year than the Raiders, with an average of nearly 30 points allowed per game.

SOPHOMORE SLUMP

Part a strong crop of rookie running backs last season, Leonard Fournette finished fifth in the league in yards rushing per game as the Jacksonville Jaguars came so close to beating the New England Patriots in the AFC championship game. The Jaguars as a team would qualify as the league's biggest letdown, so Fournette is hardly alone. But even with a mulligan for missing six games because of a hamstring injury, Fournette has taken a clear step back.

The fourth overall pick in the 2017 draft has averaged only 3.4 yards per attempt (46th in the NFL) and 56.6 rushing yards per game (24th in the NFL). Last week in a three-point loss to Washington, Fournette spent most of the second half on the sideline while undrafted rookie Dave Williams ate into his playing time.

TOUGH TIMES

Drafting a quarterback in the first round is a decision made with as much long-term view as any in the league, and success for rookies at this high-pressure position can be awfully difficult without strong supporting casts.

Still, more and more quarterbacks in their early 20s are coming to the NFL with the skills to be an instant success, and given the impatient nature of a results-driven culture there's been no shortage of complaints about Sam Darnold (third overall pick), Josh Allen (seventh overall pick) and Josh Rosen (10th overall pick), particularly when judging them against first overall pick Baker Mayfield's late-season surge with the Cleveland Browns. With a combined 30 touchdown passes against 38 interceptions, Darnold, Allen and Rosen have displayed a need for more experience and more help. The New York Jets, Buffalo Bills and Arizona Cardinals have a collective record of 12-20.

KICKING IT AWAY

Sure, Chicago and Green Bay play on grass in cold climates, but Minnesota and Detroit have indoor stadiums. NFC North teams have enjoyed a long line of successful kickers. This year, though, has been a struggle, with 12-year veteran Matt Prater of the

Lions the only specialist whose season has become a story. The Vikings cut rookie Daniel Carlson after two games and three missed field goals that cost them a victory against the rival Packers, who had their own issues with Mason Crosby. Cody Parkey ranks 28th in field goal percentage for the Bears, one spot behind Crosby.

SO MUCH FOR DRAMA

That last-second 2-point conversion the Los Angeles Chargers used to win at Kansas City and tie the Chiefs for the AFC West lead

turned that division race into a December thriller. That's the exception, though, with the Bears, New Orleans Saints and Los Angeles Rams already in possession of top-four seeds in the NFC and the New England Patriots and Houston Texans holding two-game leads in their divisions with two games to play. That three-team race in the NFC East has been muted by all that mediocrity. The Baltimore Ravens, at least, have made the AFC North a legitimate competition with the Steelers.



PHOTO BY ADRIAN KRAUS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jacksonville Jaguars running back Leonard Fournette (27) hasn't been healthy, and neither has his performance, along with the rest of the Jaguars.

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Shedding Puig helps Dodgers

By **BILL PLASCHKE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES—Yasiel Puig was energetic, exciting and fun.

Yasiel Puig was also selfish, irresponsible and ultimately destructive.

His success with the Dodgers was epitomized by that three-run home run in Game 4 of the World Series against the Boston Red Sox, the glorious flipping of his bat, the triumphant raising of the arms, the playful flex of his biceps for fan Kobe Bryant.

Yet his failure here was epitomized only a couple of weeks earlier when a base-running blunder against the Atlanta Braves earned him a rare playoff dugout scolding by manager Dave Roberts.

During his six seasons in Los Angeles, Puig captured the hearts of Dodger fans, but lost the trust of his team. He won moments, but cost games. He was their biggest star, but also their biggest clubhouse burden.

The most popular cheer at Dodger Stadium was, "Puiiiiig."

But if that low guttural tone came from the dugout, it would often be a "Boooo."

Vin Scully delightfully called him the "Wild Horse."

But too many times, Puig acted like the wild rear end of that horse.

Mourn the loss of Puig you will — and surely you will — but the Dodgers got the better end of Friday's trade simply by getting rid of him.

In a deal that was all about dumping, the Dodgers traded Puig, Matt Kemp, Alex Wood and Kyle Farmer to the Cincinnati Reds for two minor-leaguers and a major-league pitcher, Homer Bailey, who was 1-14 with a 6.09 ERA last year and will promptly be released.

While the Dodgers received no guaranteed assets for three contributors, they freed up salary space to potentially improve their outfield with a free agent such as Bryce Harper or A.J. Pollock. Barring that, they could also use the financial flexibility to acquire a top starting pitcher, which, along with catcher, is one of their two biggest needs.

No matter what happens next, it was a win if only because they were finally able to send Puig packing.

It was a move they have been attempting for a couple of years, a move which has been promoted several times in this column space, a move which had become not just

optimal, but necessary.

This being his final year before free agency, an arbitration year in which Puig was projected to make about \$11 million even though he was no longer an everyday player, it was the perfect time. Cincinnati being the new home of his beloved batting coach Turner Ward, the Reds were the perfect place.

Hitting against all pitching in that homer-happy ballpark on the Ohio River, Puig will be fine. While Dodgers fans won't like this one bit, the team has to be thrilled.

No more wondering if Puig will show up on time, and whether he'll actually be invested once he's there. No more hoping he won't be so empowered by a diving catch that his next throw will sail purposely over the cutoff man. No more worrying that he'll become so starved for attention during the middle of a lazy July afternoon game, he'll try to steal third with two outs and kill another inning.

No more fretting about a plate approach that rarely included adjustments, base-running tactics that needlessly threatened potential big innings, and general disrespectful behavior that could be impulsively detrimental.

The beginning of the end occurred in August of 2016, when he was sent to the minor leagues for a month and promptly appeared in a video partying with his Oklahoma City teammates.

The last straw perhaps happened in the middle of August of this season, when Puig shoved and slapped a taunting San Francisco Giants catcher Nick Hundley, resulting in a two-game suspension.

Make no mistake, his behavior wouldn't have mattered as much if his production equaled his distraction. But it didn't. He never quite lived up to that amazing rookie summer in 2013, never collecting more than 74 RBIs, and only once hitting more than 23 homers.

He was an average player. But man, he had his moments, and the Dodgers will miss those moments.

He was fearless in the postseason, with five homers and 18 RBIs in the last two October. Not only did he have that mammoth blast in Game 4 of the recent World Series, but earlier his three-run homer in the sixth inning in Game 7 of the National League Championship Series against the Milwaukee Brewers basically gave the Dodgers the pennant.

Every time he came to the plate, Dodger Stadium

buzzed, and his influence reached far beyond Chavez Ravine.

He was great in the community, especially with children, who he would entertain behind the batting cage before games. He was engaging on social media, the rare baseball player who connects with fans and isn't afraid to market himself.

When asked to assess Puig's career in Los Angeles, Dodger baseball boss Andrew Friedman summed it perfectly with the first part of his answer in a Friday conference call.

"That's a very deep question," said Friedman. "Obviously he's made a

tremendous impact on this team, on this community, he's an electric talent."

Friedman added, "Obviously going through the well-publicized issues in 2016, he was kind of at a fork in the road in terms of which way to go. To his credit, he put in a lot of hard work and focused on being a better teammate and performing more consistently and has been a big part of the success we had in 2017 and 2018."

No matter where you stand on the polarizing figure, there is a certain sadness to his departure, a sadness borne of a lost opportunity.



PHOTO BY CHARLIE RIEDEL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig (66) was traded to Cincinnati along with Matt Kemp and left-hander Alex Wood for right-hander Homer Bailey.

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TENNIS

FROM PAGE 1B

projects. Entry fee for the 5K is \$20 and Half Marathon fee is \$40 thru January 10, 2019. Late fees are \$25 for the 5K and \$50 for the Half Marathon thru race day registration. Participants will get a custom designed sport tech tee, awards in both races, food, fun and a great chance to test their skills in the New Year.

Checks payable to Central Florida Striders along with entry form may be snail mailed to race director Brojek at: 3310 Par Road, Sebring, FL 33872 or you may register online at: <http://endurancesportstiming.com/race-calendar/>

The Half Marathon may be run by an individual or by a team relay for the 13.1 mile distance. Those desiring to form a relay team should contact the coach at: cbrojek@comcast.net to discuss details and special relay pricing. The Half Marathon includes almost nine miles of the beautiful trails throughout the park. "Our Hammock Half is a challenging course, but it allows participants to see parts of the park seldom viewed by visitors."

Anyone needing an entry form may email Brojek at: cbrojek@comcast.net and he will get one out to you right away.

Harder Hall Women's Invite

SEBRING — The Harder Hall Women's Invitational, part of the long-storied Orange Blossom Women's Amateur Tour, will take place Jan 9-12, 2019 in Sebring.

An event which began in 1956, the Harder Hall Women's Invitational annually has some of the top amateur women's golfers from the U.S. and worldwide competing.

This 63rd annual ladies golf tournament is open to women amateur golfers age 12 and older. Play will be conducted in two divisions, and the field is limited to 132 players.

Past tournament champions have included such prominent names such as Cristie Kerr, Natalie Gulbis, Brittany Lincicome, Morgan Pressel, Stacy Lewis and Charley Hull.

For more information about the tournament, visit <http://www.hardderhallwomens.com>. For more information about Sebring and the surrounding area, visit <http://www.VisitSebring.com>.

Charity Golf Tournament

BARTOW – If you want to see if Jim Dent can still drive a ball a country mile at nearly 90 years old do that at the scholarship tournament at the Bartow Municipal Golf Course on Jan. 5. Also playing will be Andy Bean, an 11-time winner on the PGA Tour and a three-time Champions Tour victor, at the Herbert Dixon Charity

Golf Tournament.

Similar to Herbert Dixon, Dent was an early black competitor in the PGA where the opportunity was little. Like Dixon, Dent taught himself to play golf and caddied in Augusta, Ga., learning from professionals in The Masters.

Sponsored by the Bartow Deacons and Stewards Alliance, the annual tournament is named for two golfing Hall of Famer, Herbert Dixon, at 99 years old can shoot 20 strokes below that number. Dent also stays active on the golf course as he nears 90 years old.

Bean, a Lakeland High School graduate who started playing golf when he was 3 years old, had 19 professional wins on the Championship Tour including 11 PGA tournament victories. They will be two of the professional golfers taking part in the annual tournament. The money it raises is for scholarships for underprivileged youth.

The Bartow Municipal Golf Course is at 190 South Idlewood Drive, Bartow. Check in time is 7 a.m. Tee off time for the four-person scramble is at 8 a.m.

To enter the tournament or for sponsorship information contact Carver Young at (863) 533-1207 or by email at carver.young863@gmail.com. Or sign up online at <http://bartowedc.org/>.

COLLEGE BOWL PICKS

Highlands News-Sun invites you to pick the most winners and you will win a \$50 Visa Gift Card courtesy of Highlands News-Sun. In the event of a tie among reader's selections, the combined point totals from the National Championship Game will be used to break the tie. Point totals must not exceed the combined number of points scored. If everyone goes over, then the total closest to the actual score will win. All you have to do is select the winner of each bowl game, then deliver or mail your entry to Highlands News-Sun Football Picks, 315 U.S. 27 N., Sebring, FL 33870, Mark Pinson. Your entry must be received and/or postmarked by midnight Dec. 23. Only one entry per person.

Reader's Picks

SERVPRO BOWL	Boston College vs. Boise State Weds., Dec 26 • 1:30 p.m., ESPN	
DETROIT BOWL	Minnesota vs. Georgia Tech Weds., Dec 26 • 5:15 p.m., ESPN	
CHEEZ-IT BOWL	California vs. Texas Christian Weds., Dec 26 • 9:00 p.m., ESPN	
WALK-ON'S INDEPENDENCE BOWL	Temple vs. Duke Thursday, Dec 27 • 1:30 p.m., ESPN	
NEW ERA PINSTRIPE BOWL	Miami vs. Wisconsin Thursday, Dec 27 • 5:15 p.m., ESPN	
ACADEMY SPORTS+ OUTDOORS TEXAS BOWL	Baylor vs. Vanderbilt Thursday, Dec 27 • 9:00 p.m., ESPN	
FRANKLIN AMERICAN MORTGAGE MUSIC CITY BOWL	Purdue vs. Auburn Friday, Dec 28 • 1:30 p.m., ESPN	
CAMPING WORLD BOWL	West Virginia vs. Syracuse Friday, Dec 28 • 5:15 p.m., ESPN	
VALERO ALAMO BOWL	Iowa State vs. Washington State Friday, Dec 28 • 9:00 p.m., ESPN	
CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL	Florida vs. Michigan Sat., Dec 29 • 12:00 p.m., ESPN	
BELK BOWL	South Carolina vs. Virginia Sat., Dec 29 • 12:00 p.m., ESPN	
NOVA HOME LOANS ARIZONA BOWL	Arkansas State vs. Nevada Sat., Dec 29 • 1:15 p.m., CBSN	
MILITARY BOWL	Cincinnati vs. Virginia Tech Monday, Dec 31 • 12:00 p.m., ESPN	
HYUNDAI SUN BOWL	Stanford vs. Pittsburgh Monday, Dec 31 • 2:00 p.m., CBS	
REDBOX BOWL	Michigan State vs. Oregon Monday, Dec 31 • 3:00 p.m., FOX	
AUTOZONE LIBERTY BOWL	Missouri vs. Oklahoma State Monday, Dec 31 • 3:45 p.m., ESPN	
HOLIDAY BOWL	Northwestern vs. Utah Monday, Dec 31 • 7:00 p.m., FS1	
TAXSLAYER GATOR BOWL	North Carolina State vs. Texas A&M Monday, Dec 31 • 7:30 p.m., ESPN	
OUTBACK BOWL	Mississippi State vs. Iowa Tuesday, Jan. 1 • 12:00 p.m., ESPN2	
VRBO: CITRUS BOWL	Kentucky vs. Penn State Tuesday, Jan. 1 • 1:00 p.m., ABC	
PLAYSTATION FIESTA BOWL	Louisiana State vs. Central Florida Tuesday, Jan. 1 • 1:00 p.m., ESPN	
ROSE BOWL	Washington vs. Ohio State Tuesday, Jan. 1 • 5:00 p.m., ESPN	
ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL	Texas vs. Georgia Tuesday, Jan. 1 • 8:45 p.m., ESPN	
GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL	Notre Dame vs. Clemson Sat., Dec 29 • 4:00 p.m., ESPN	
CAPITAL ONE ORANGE BOWL	Alabama vs. Oklahoma Sat., Dec. 29 • 8:00 p.m., ESPN	
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY AT&T	Teams TBD Monday, Jan. 7 • 7 p.m. ESPN	

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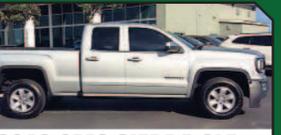
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'Like losing your legs':
Duckworth pushed
airlines to report on
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See page 8



Partial government shutdown likely to extend past Christmas

Standoff deepens between Trump and Democrats over border wall budget

By **LISA MASCARO, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and KEVIN FREKING**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The federal government was expected to remain partially shut down past Christmas as the standoff deepened Saturday over President Donald Trump's demand for funds to build a border wall with Mexico.

With Trump's insistence on \$5 billion for the wall and negotiations with Democrats in Congress far from a breakthrough, even a temporary measure to keep the government running while talks continued seemed out of reach until the Senate returned for a full session Thursday.

From coast to coast, the first

day of the shutdown played out in uneven ways. The Statue of Liberty was still open for tours, thanks to funding from New York state, and the U.S. Post Office was still delivering mail, as an independent agency.

Yet the disruption affected many government operations and the routines of 800,000 federal employees. Roughly 420,000 workers were deemed essential and were expected to work unpaid. An additional 380,000 were to be furloughed, meaning they will stay home without pay. The Senate had already passed legislation ensuring that workers will receive back pay, and the House was likely to follow suit.

No one knew how long the closures would last. Unlike

other shutdowns, this one seemed to lack urgency, coming during the long holiday weekend after Trump had already declared Monday, Christmas Eve, a federal holiday. Rather than work around the clock to try to end the shutdown, as they had done in the past, the leaders of the House and the Senate effectively closed up shop. But they didn't rule out action if a deal were struck.

"Listen, anything can happen," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters after he closed the Senate's rare Saturday session hours after it opened.

But after ushering Vice President Mike Pence through the Capitol for another round



AP PHOTO

The Capitol is seen on the first morning of a partial government shutdown, as Democratic and Republican lawmakers are at a standoff with President Donald Trump on spending for his border wall, in Washington, Saturday.

of negotiations, the Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, said a quick end to the shutdown was "not probable."

At the White House, Trump hosted a lunch Saturday with conservative lawmakers, including House Freedom

SHUTDOWN | 4



AP FILE PHOTO

Melania Trump's cranberry topiary trees may have left some of her critics seeing red, but they turned out to be a hit this Christmas — one of several new wrinkles the Trumps introduced this holiday season.

Melania Trump's red topiary trees a hit at Christmas parties

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Melania Trump's cranberry topiary trees may have left some of her critics seeing red, but they turned out to be a Christmas hit — one of several new ideas the Trumps introduced this holiday season.

In a four-week stretch of 21 holiday parties, the president also did fewer official photo ops and largely froze out the media. But in time-honored tradition, though, politicians still used the celebrations to

squeeze in last-minute deal-making.

Many of the soirees unfolded under the threat of a partial government shutdown that took effect Saturday.

A stalemate with Congress over Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border forced the president to delay his plan to shift the merry-making to his Florida estate on Friday. He remained in Washington while his wife and son, Barron, flew to Palm Beach without him.

Mrs. Trump's decision to place more than 40 red

trees on a green carpet along the East Wing colonnade turned out to be quite the attraction: Pedestrian traffic jams formed as guests clamored to be photographed in front of the unusual holiday landscape.

"Every single person that came through the East Wing stopped for a photo," said conservative commentator Paris Dennard, a recent guest.

Armstrong Williams, another conservative commentator, tweeted photos of himself posing in front of the trees made using fake berry branches.

"I thought it was just

classy," he said. "Great for photos."

Trump and the first lady on Wednesday hosted the final two parties of the season, where guests feasted on lamb chops, shrimp and potato latkes along with a dessert bar that included lemon tart, coconut cake and Christmas cookies. Champagne and egg nog flowed freely.

Guests said the affairs amounted to festive reunions largely devoid of overt political talk while folks who'd been out of touch spent time

TREES | 4

Selling expendable Lincoln-collection items won't erase debt

By **JOHN O'CONNOR**
AP POLITICAL WRITER

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The acquisition of 1,500 documents and artifacts for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum a decade ago firmly established Illinois as a leading repository of all things Lincoln, the prairie lawyer who led the U.S. through the Civil War.

So forgive the hand-wringing over the possibility that some of it might have to be sold. The Lincoln museum's fundraising foundation, which borrowed \$23 million in 2007 to buy the trove from private collector Louise Taper, still owes \$9.2 million on a note due in October

2019. Donations have slowed and state officials are reluctant to chip in.

An Associated Press review of the collection shows large parts that could be considered expendable. Does a collection of Lincolniana need five dozen playbills, letters and lithographs belonging to Junius Brutus Booth, the father of Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, who died eight years before Lincoln became president?

Does it need an 1874 invitation to the wedding of the daughter of President Ulysses Grant? A 1928 memo to the wife of the law partner of Lincoln's son Robert

LINCOLN | 4



AP FILE PHOTO

This 2007 file photo shows, Abraham Lincoln's bloodstained gloves he carried on the night of his death.

At least 43 killed, 600 wounded after tsunami hits Indonesia

By **ISMIRA LUTFIA TISNADIBRATA**
DPA (TNS)

JAKARTA, Indonesia — At least 43 people have been killed in a tsunami that hit both sides of Indonesia's Sunda Strait late Saturday, the country's disaster mitigation agency (BNPB) said.

BNPB spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said in a statement that 584 people had been injured, two were missing and dozens of buildings had been damaged.

The number of casualties was expected to increase as authorities were still collecting data on the areas affected by

the tsunami, he added.

Undersea landslides triggered by an eruption of the Mount Anak Krakatau volcano could be the cause of the tsunami, the country's climatology agency (BMKG) said. The volcano is located on the strait between the island of Java and Sumatra.

The climatology agency said the eruption took place at 9:03 p.m., and the tsunami hit at 9:27 pm.

"At the same time the tide was high due to the full moon, so it was a combination of two natural phenomenon, the tsunami and the high tide," Nugroho said.

He said casualties had been recorded in the provinces of Lampung on the Sumatra side of the strait and Banten on the Java side of the strait.

Some of the worst hit areas were in Banten, where there are many popular beach resorts that were likely to be busy given the holiday season.

Jacksonville on the cusp of becoming minority-majority city

Out of the country's 15 largest cities, only 2 were majority white in 2017

By **ANDREW PANTAZI**

THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Out of the country's 15 largest cities, only two were majority white in 2017: Columbus, Ohio, and Jacksonville. But that's about to change.

Jacksonville is in the midst of a demographic shift as white residents leave and the non-white population flourishes.

In 2008, only 42 percent of the city was non-white. Nine years later, in 2017, the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey found that 49 percent was. 2018's data won't come out until next year, but it's possible that Jacksonville has already crossed the threshold thanks to the city's growing black, Hispanic and

Asian populations.

There were 15,400 fewer white people in 2017 compared to 2008, 32,400 more African-Americans, 36,100 more Latinos and 18,600 more Asians. In the county as a whole, which includes the Beaches and Baldwin, there were about 6,300 fewer white people and 93,000 more non-white people. The county was still about 53 percent non-Hispanic white.

Krista Paulsen, an urban sociologist at the University of North Florida, said that when cities see minority populations grow, their needs change.

For example, how public space is used can vary by racial group, she said. Conflict has arisen in cities when white residents have responded with hostility to minority groups who might

be more community-minded than previous residents.

Growing minority populations, she said, might be more likely to need a more robust public transportation system, more public parks and schools that are equipped to teach students who are learning English as a second language. Because changing demographics isn't always obvious, sometimes needs go unmet.

For example, in November's election, Duval County Supervisor of Elections Mike Hogan was found to have violated a federal court order by not providing Spanish-language sample ballots at early-voting sites.

The growing diversity can also impact a community's culture, food and politics.

One area where this is most clearly seen is on

Baymeadows Road by I-95. About one in five people in the neighborhood is Asian, and the stores and restaurants around there reflect that reality.

Similarly, near Powers and St. Augustine roads, where nearly 19 percent of residents are Hispanic, cash checking stores, barber shops and tax preparers advertise bilingually.

"Soy la abogada Gabriela Narvaez, sera un placer asistirle en SU idioma," reads one sign. "I am the attorney Gabriela Narvaez, it says. It will be a pleasure to assist you in YOUR language."

Paulsen said she was surprised that despite Jacksonville's steadily growing population that there are fewer white people in Jacksonville in 2017 than in 2008. Part

of that might be because of migration to suburban counties where school districts are graded higher by the state. The average annual net migration from Duval to St. Johns, Clay or Nassau from 2011 to 2015 was 3,600 people. While those counties are growing almost entirely thanks to migration from other American communities, Jacksonville's growth is largely due to international migration and births outpacing deaths.

One-third of Jacksonville's cumulative growth from 2010 to 2017 was thanks to international migration, and almost 50 percent was due to the many more births than deaths. In St. Johns County, for comparison, 92 percent of its growth came from people moving

there from other parts of America, including Duval.

While in Jacksonville the non-white population is the only one that's growing, in St. Johns County, one of the fastest growing counties in the state, three-quarters of its growth from 2010 to 2017 came from white residents.

To some extent, Paulsen said, people who have the means might be choosing to segregate themselves into homogeneous communities.

Paulsen noted that demographic shifts can at first be invisible in a city like Jacksonville where people aren't living in the sort of dense neighborhoods like mega-cities and where the shift between urban and suburban can occur within the city limits.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Florida unemployment drops to lowest level in 12 years

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida's unemployment rate dropped to 3.3 percent in November, the lowest level it's been in 12 years.

The state released employment figures on Friday. The unemployment rate was down from 3.4 percent in October. Florida remains below the national unemployment rate of 3.7 percent.

Florida has 335,000 jobless residents out of a workforce of nearly 10.3 million people. The state has added 241,600 jobs over the past year.

Monroe County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.4 percent, followed by St. Johns and Okaloosa counties at 2.5 percent.

Gulf County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.4 percent, followed by Bay County at 6.1 percent and Franklin County at 5 percent. All three counties were affected by Hurricane Michael.

Hundreds show for funeral of former Florida State president

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Hundreds of people from state

and local politics, higher education and the business community have gathered to pay their final respects to former Florida State president and former Florida House speaker T.K. Wetherell.

The Tallahassee Democrat reports that services were held Friday at a Tallahassee concert hall. The 72-year-old died last weekend following a 16-year battle with cancer.

Current FSU President John Thrasher spoke of his predecessor as a man of true courage and tenacity, who was a driving force in advancing higher education in Florida.

Wetherell was the first Florida State graduate to serve as the university's president. He attended Florida State on a football scholarship and earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the school.

6 years in prison for woman who had sex with adopted son

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A Florida woman has been sentenced to six years in prison for having sex with a 17-year-old boy she adopted.

Lauren Myres was sentenced Thursday and was given the designation of a sex offender.

Earlier this month, she entered a no contest plea to a charge of sexual battery on a minor.

Authorities say the Fort Walton Beach, Florida woman had been a social services caseworker assigned to the boy. She later decided to foster the boy and adopted him.

The Northwest Florida Daily News reports that after the adoption was finalized authorities discovered Myres had been having sex with him.

The boy told detectives he didn't think it was wrong since he was almost 18.

After her arrest, Myers was fired from her job.

Child welfare working charged with possessing child porn

BARTOW, Fla. (AP) — A Florida child welfare worker is under arrest for possessing child pornography.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office charged 28-year-old William Smith with 15 counts of possessing child pornography on Friday night.

Smith is a case manager at Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc., in Lakeland, which contracts with the Department of Children and Families. He was previously

a child protective investigator for Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services.

The sheriff's office said the social media company Tumblr reported the images to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The account was traced to Smith.

The sheriff's office said Smith admitted to using Tumblr to trade child pornography.

Florida police release video of officer fatally shooting dog

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Authorities in Florida released body camera video of an officer fatally shooting a dog.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office posted the video on Facebook Friday, two days after officer Victor Jones shot the pit bull while responding to the report of a home alarm.

The video shows Jones walking around the property. Then the pit bull rushes toward him and barks. Jones cursed in fright and quickly shot the dog in the head.

The sheriff's office said Jones was "forced" to shoot the dog because he was in fear of his safety.

In a separate Facebook post, the pit bull's owner criticized

Jones. Matt Long said the 11-year-old dog wasn't aggressive and has bad legs. Long said the dog, Prophet, "was just an old boy hanging out in his yard."

France, Florida sign agreement to preserve ancient shipwreck

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — France and Florida have signed a "declaration of intent" to preserve, protect and research a 16th century shipwreck off the state's coast.

Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner and Consul General of France in Miami Clément Leclerc announced the agreement Friday to protect what remains of La Trinite, which sank off the coast of Cape Canaveral during a 1565 hurricane.

The Trinite was the flagship of a fleet captained by Jean Ribault that was part of a conflict with Spain as the nations fought to colonize Florida.

Items from the ship were discovered in 2016 by a marine salvage company and led to a court battle over the rights to them. A judge ruled the artifacts were the property of France.

The agreement calls for artifacts removed from the site to be put on public display in Florida.

Syria sends reinforcements after Trump's pullout plan

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian troops have sent reinforcements to the eastern province of Deir el-Zour close to an enclave controlled by the Islamic State group and along the front with U.S.-backed Kurdish-led fighters, a war monitor and pro-government pages on social media said Saturday.

The reinforcements arrived after U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced he was pulling all 2,000 U.S. troops out of Syria. Trump has now declared victory over IS, contradicting assessments by his own experts, with many lawmakers calling his decision rash and dangerous.

A senior Kurdish politician on Friday called on France to play a larger role in Syria following the U.S. withdrawal.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the government sent thousands of its elite forces to Deir el-Zour that borders Iraq, where IS holds the last area under its control in Syria.

The Observatory said the troops and pro-government fighters were deployed on the west banks of the Euphrates River close to the IS-held

enclave, mostly in the towns of Mayadeen and Boukamal. It added that troops brought to the area include members of the Tiger Force, an elite unit that defeated rebels and IS gunmen on several fronts over the past two years.

A pro-government Facebook page posted a photo of Tiger Force commander Brig. Gen. Suheil and also reported that troops under his command have arrived in Deir el-Zour. It also posted photos of military vehicles said to be arriving in the area.

U.S.-backed Syrian fighters of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have been trying to capture the area from IS since Sept. 10. The battles have left hundreds of IS and SDF fighters dead.

On Friday, senior Kurdish politician Ilham Ahmed warned in Paris that SDF fighters may have to withdraw from the front lines in the fight against IS to deploy along the borders with Turkey after Ankara said it plans to carry an attack.

The Observatory's chief, Rami Abdurrahman, said the troops were deployed for a possible attack on IS or to assume control of areas that could be evacuated by SDF fighters.

Painting stolen in WWII is heading from US to Ukraine

Artwork stolen in WWII found in a Connecticut home

RIDGEFIELD, Conn. (AP) — A painting that was stolen in World War II and found in a Connecticut home is being returned to an art museum in Ukraine.

Court records filed Thursday by U.S. officials say the painting of Ivan the Terrible was scheduled to be auctioned by a couple in Ridgefield, Conn., last year when a Ukrainian museum intervened.

The museum said

the work was a 1911 oil painting that had been stolen during the Nazi occupation. It measures nearly 64 square feet and depicts the Russian ruler departing Moscow on horseback.

U.S. officials say the painting was in the Ridgefield house when the couple bought it in 1987. It was traced to an earlier owner of the home who served in the Swiss Army.



A painting of Ivan the Terrible is being returned to an art museum in Ukraine.

AP PHOTO

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Russia shuts down Soviet-built nuclear reactor

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Russia's nuclear power company says a Soviet-built nuclear reactor has been taken out of operation after 45 years of service.

The state-controlled Rosatom corporation said Saturday that Reactor No. 1 at the Leningrad nuclear power plant has been shut down as planned. It said it will take until 2023 to fully unload its uranium fuel.

Launched in 1973, the reactor became the first unit of the RBMK-1000 type to be built in the Soviet Union. A reactor of the same type exploded in Chernobyl in April 1986 in the world's worst nuclear accident. All such reactors have received safety upgrades after the Chernobyl disaster.

The Leningrad power plant has three other Soviet-built reactors of the same type and one new VVER-1200 reactor that became operational earlier this year.

Potash mine fire leaves 9 trapped underground

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian emergency teams struggled Saturday to reach nine construction workers trapped inside a burning potash mine in the Perm region near the Ural Mountains.

Officials said the fire erupted Saturday when 17 workers were inside the mine in Solikamsk, which is located 740 miles east of Moscow. Eight workers were quickly evacuated but the blaze cut access to another nine workers in a different section of the mine.

The Russian company Uralkali, which owns the mine producing the potassium-rich salt potash, said the trapped workers were employees of a subcontractor who were doing maintenance work in the mine.

Emergency teams made repeated attempts to reach the trapped workers but were blocked by the fire and heavy smoke.

Gatwick flights resume; UK police question 2 drone suspects

LONDON (AP) — London's Gatwick Airport was plagued by long lines and flight delays Saturday but no new drone sightings, allowing British officials to hope the worse was over after two people were arrested in connection with the drone invasion that had shut down the country's second-busiest airport.

Check-in lines at Gatwick stretched the length of the departures hall as harried travelers tried to make good on Christmas plans upended by three days of extended shutdowns caused by drones being spotted over the airfield.

The persistent drone crisis at Gatwick, 30 miles south of London, has had a ripple effect throughout the international air travel system since Wednesday night, when the first drone was spotted.

Trump says he's talking with Democrats on shutdown, but none are invited to White House meeting

By JOHN T. BENNETT
CQ-ROLL CALL (TNS)

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump claimed Saturday to be negotiating with Democratic leaders to end a partial government shutdown. But when he convened a lunch at the White House, he invited only Republican lawmakers and officials — mostly immigration hardliners.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said again Saturday that any deal that would reopen the Justice, Homeland Security, Agriculture, Interior and other departments will have to be negotiated by Trump and Senate Democratic leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y.

Trump claimed Saturday morning that he was “working hard” at the White House after canceling his planned trip to his South Florida resort. And he said on Twitter that he was pursuing a bipartisan deal.

“I am in the White House,

working hard. News reports concerning the Shutdown and Syria are mostly FAKE. We are negotiating with the Democrats on desperately needed Border Security (Gangs, Drugs, Human Trafficking & more),” Trump wrote, “but it could be a long stay.”

Vice President Mike Pence, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, White House policy adviser Jared Kushner, and White House legislative affairs chief Shahira Knight were at the lunch meeting, deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters said.

The president, rather than hearing the views of Democrats who might be willing to approve money for a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border, also invited a number of conservative immigration hardliners.

That list included House Freedom Caucus leaders Mark Meadows of North Carolina and Jim Jordan of Utah, both of whom helped persuade Trump to demand \$5 billion for his

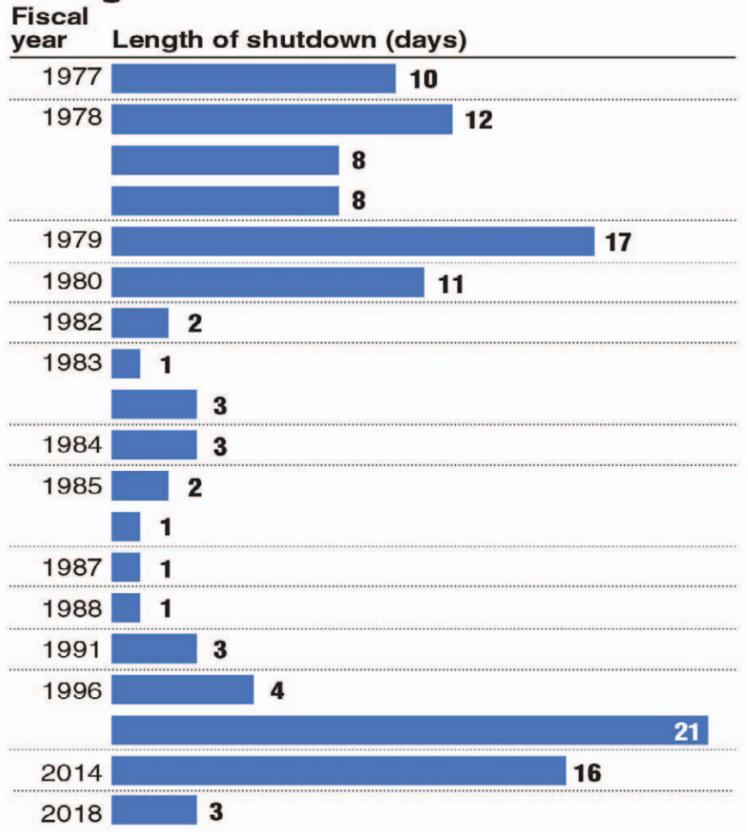
wall project and to reject a Senate shutdown-averting stopgap that called for \$1.3 billion for “fencing.”

Also on the list were Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.; Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah; Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard C. Shelby, R-Ala. of Alabama. Graham has urged the president to “dig in” on his wall plans before and Lee voted against an immigration bill pushed by the Trump White House, in part because it would have offered citizenship to beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for young immigrants and increased the number of undocumented migrants eligible to be covered by that program.

Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz., also got an invitation. He has introduced legislation to fund Trump’s border wall.

Walters did not respond to an inquiry about why no Democrats were invited to the lunch meeting.

Past government shutdowns



Source: Congressional Research Service

Graphic: Tribune News Service

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

Man arrested after eluding authorities for 22 years

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A West Texas fugitive has been arrested after being on the run from authorities for more than 22 years.

Authorities had been looking for 58-year-old Jose Guadalupe Silva Jr. since August 1996 after he failed to appear in court following his arrest in El Paso on a drug smuggling charge.

Silva was arrested for possession with intent to distribute more than 50 kilograms of marijuana. He was accused of trying to smuggle marijuana into the U.S. through one of the ports of entry in El Paso.

Authorities say Silva was released on a \$30,000 bond and went on the run. Investigators followed leads in Texas, California and Mexico.

Man accused of plot to kidnap Letterman’s son is freed

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) — A man once accused of plotting to kidnap retired talk show host David Letterman’s son and nanny has been released from a Montana prison for a second time after serving additional years for violating parole.

Kelly Allen Frank was released in mid-November and is under the supervision of parole officials, the Great Falls Tribune reported Saturday.

Frank was a painter on Letterman’s Montana ranch when he was arrested in 2005 on charges of solicitation to kidnap. Investigators said he told an acquaintance of a plan to abduct Letterman’s son, Harry Joseph, then 16 months old, and the nanny for a \$5 million ransom.

In a deal with prosecutors, Frank pleaded guilty to theft for overcharging Letterman for painting. He also pleaded guilty to obstruction for lying to investigators and to an unrelated poaching charge. Prosecutors dropped the kidnap-related charge.

Frank was sentenced to 10 years in prison but escaped in 2007. He was re-captured and given an additional 10-year sentence.

He was released in 2014 but re-arrested in 2015 for violating the terms of his parole.

The conditions of his latest parole include spending at least six months in semi-restricted housing and wearing a GPS monitor for at least six months.

Kansas trying to unload \$10M in computer equipment

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer’s administration is seeking a way to donate or sell at a steep discount as much as \$10 million in unused computer equipment that has been stored in a state office building since 2016.

The state still owes \$2 million on the equipment, which it bought in 2016 as part of a failed plan to develop a centralized storage system, call Kansas GovCloud, for computer information. That idea was canceled by state IT officials who said it was too expensive. Instead, the state contracts with an outside company to store data on remote servers.

Attempts to sell the equipment failed to attract bidders, leading to discussions about finding someone to take the equipment before its value dropped to the level of scrap metal. The Topeka Capital-Journal reported.

Priest charged with sex crime returned to jail

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A former Rapid City priest accused of sexually touching a 13-year-old girl has been returned to jail after authorities realized the ankle monitor he was wearing would not work due to poor cellular service.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 38-year-old John Praveen was released from jail Thursday afternoon after someone paid for his recently reduced \$10,000 cash-only bond. He was returned to jail three hours later after problems were found with his monitoring device.

He has pleaded not guilty to sexually abusing a child.

The Rapid City diocese earlier offered to house and supervise Praveen at a retirement home for priests in Piedmont, but backed off after some community members objected.

Traffic stop leads discovery of 800 pounds of pot

DUBOIS, Idaho (AP) — Idaho State Police say a traffic stop in eastern Idaho led to the discovery of 800 pounds of marijuana worth more than \$3 million.

Police in a news release on Friday say 37-year-old Jonathan D. Speckman of Hainesville, Illinois, was taken into custody on Dec. 15 on suspicion of trafficking marijuana.

Police say Speckman was pulled over for a traffic violation on Interstate 15 near Dubois. Authorities say a drug-sniffing dog detected the presence of drugs, and police obtained a search warrant for a pickup and trailer.

No discipline for lawmaker accused of sexual misconduct

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — An investigation of a Minnesota lawmaker accused of unwanted advances on women did not result in any discipline.

Minnesota Public Radio reports the House released a summary of the investigation Friday, nine months after the allegations against Republican Rep. Rod Hamilton surfaced. The full investigation was not made public because it contains private personnel data.

In April, Emily Schlecht reported to police that the eight-term lawmaker from Mountain Lake invited her back to his St. Paul apartment during a snowstorm. She was at the Capitol advocating for a sexual violence center.

Schlecht says Hamilton stroked her head and hands and kissed her.

At the time, Hamilton said it was a misunderstanding, and no charges were brought by police.

The internal investigation cost more than \$38,000.

Woman dies when car crashes into roadside work

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — A 32-year-old woman has died while riding as a passenger in a car that crashed into a roadside work operation.

The News Journal of Wilmington reports that a 31-year-old Newark man was driving the SUV on I-95 south when the vehicle veered off the road. The car hit the side of a crash truck, designed to protect work crews by absorbing the impact of a vehicle hitting it from behind.

Fifth Third Bank is the pits

Dear Mr. Berko: In March of this year, I bought 300 shares of Fifth Third Bank at \$34, but it hasn’t gone higher, even in this bull market. The shares have just continued to go down in price, while most other banks in the Midwest have risen in value. I’ve got a 27 percent loss. Would you recommend that I buy another 300 shares? — PS, Columbus, Ohio

Dear PS: No! I recently talked with some semi-big shots at four consumer-oriented public companies in several Midwestern states where Fifth Third does business. They expressed concerns that higher interest rates, rising shipping expenses, increasing costs for labor and materials, and the effects of the Trump tariffs are muffling their bottom lines. Loan growth in the Midwest is slowing. Commercial loans are drying up. And some businesses are beginning to question their bullish expectations for the coming few years. However, I think that they’re wrongheaded and that there’s a lot of business out there.

Fifth Third Bank (FITB-\$24.59) took its first deposit in 1858. It has \$145 billion in assets, but it may be experiencing some cracks, fissures and strains in its business model — or, as retired Dutch politician Koos Andriessen might say, there may be a little leak in the dike. FITB, based in Cincinnati, has over 1,150 bricks-and-mortar locations in the Midwest and the South, more than 2,400 ATMs, and 18,000 full-time employees. The stock is trading at 25 percent of its high and is lollygoggling near its yearly low. The published consensus of 28 brokerages shows that two of them have “buy” recommendations, 22 have “hold” recommendations, three rate FITB as “underperform” and one says, “Dump the thing!”

Meanwhile, FITB’s motley board of

directors and indifferent management, whose universal antenna doesn’t pick up all the channels, seem to agree. Figuring FITB’s price was too high, CEO Greg “Greggy Boy” Carmichael sold 87,000 shares this year at \$32.37. Executive Vice President Frank Forrest, the bank’s chief risk officer, sold 30,000 shares this year at \$32.56. Executive VP James “Little Jimmy” Leonard, the bank’s treasurer, unloaded 35,000 shares at \$33.80. There’s more, but I think you get the photo. It seems that FITB’s net profits may decrease by 10 percent next year. Noninterest income may go down by 20 percent. Return on total assets could go down by 18 percent next year, to 1.4 percent, while return on equity may decrease by 20 percent, to 11.8 percent. And management’s answer to expected lower revenues and profits is to cut jobs across the board and lay off over 10 percent of its workforce. Recognizing that many of its branches are woefully understaffed, this move is major dumb.

I wouldn’t care a whit to own the stock. I’m not impressed with Greggy Boy, who came up from the ranks and, according to a source at FITB, is definitely not considered an employee-friendly boss.

I’m very unimpressed with the low number of shares owned by FITB’s board of directors. And I’m also unimpressed with the board’s decision to purchase Chicago’s \$20 billion-asset and 4,000-employee MB Financial for \$4.7 billion. The talk on the Street suggests that the \$54-a-share purchase is way too pricey. Given that it’s 16.4 times earnings and 2.9 times book value, Wall Street may be right. Some say the MB Financial deal plus the board’s simultaneous decision to close its \$8 billion institutional investment management business encouraged the former chairman and two members of the FITB board to resign early this year. In addition, the stock’s dividend isn’t worth a second look.

FITB’s management and inutile board of directors are unimpressive and could individually benefit from a series of industrial-sized enemas. Earnings progress and asset growth stink, and future price appreciation may be disappointing. Meanwhile, many middle- and upper-middle management types at FITB’s headquarters are nervous about being redundant when the MB Financial acquisition is completed next year.

Email Malcolm Berko at mjberko@yahoo.com.

ANSWER TO CROSSWORD

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Treasury secretary: Trump denied suggesting firing Fed chair

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says President Donald Trump has denied ever suggesting firing Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell. Trump has been attacking the Fed — and Powell personally — for the central bank's interest rate increases. Trump blames the independent agency's hikes for recent stock market turmoil and signs of economic weakness.

Bloomberg News cited four people familiar with the matter in reporting Friday that Trump discussed firing Powell after this week's rate increase.

But Mnuchin pushed back Saturday in a pair of tweets. Mnuchin says he spoke with Trump and Trump said that, while he "totally" disagrees with Fed policy, he "never suggested" firing Powell and doesn't believe he has the right to do so. No Fed chairman has ever been removed by a president.

Nonprofits keep Pearl Harbor center open amid shutdown

HONOLULU (AP) — The visitors' center at the USS Arizona Memorial will stay open during the federal government shutdown. The National Park Service runs the visitors center. But the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reports nonprofit organizations that operate historic sites at Pearl Harbor will provide financial support to keep the center open. Pacific Historic Parks President Aileen Utterdyke says the nonprofits will do their best

to avoid the disruption and inconvenience of a shutdown. Navy sailors who operate shuttle boats to the memorial aren't affected by the shutdown. Other nonprofits chipping in are the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park, the Battleship Missouri Memorial and Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum. The federal government partially shut down overnight after President Donald Trump, the House and the Senate were unable to agree on a spending deal.

SHUTDOWN

FROM PAGE 1

Caucus chiefs Mark Meadows of North Carolina and Jim Jordan of Ohio, and several senators. Absent from the guest list were GOP leaders or any Democrats, who would be needed for a deal.

"I am in the White House, working hard," tweeted the president, who canceled his Florida holiday getaway to his club Mar-a-Lago due to the shutdown. First lady Melania Trump was flying back to Washington to be with her husband.

Trump's re-election campaign sent out a fundraising email late Saturday launching what he called "the most important membership program ever — the OFFICIAL BUILD THE WALL MEMBERSHIP." The president urged donors to sign up.

With Democrats set to take control of the House on Jan. 3, and Speaker Paul Ryan on his way out, the shutdown was providing a last gasp of the conservative majority before the new Congress.

Trump savored the prospect of a shutdown over the wall for months. Last week he said he would be "proud" to close down the government. He had campaigned on the promise of

building the wall, and he also promised Mexico would pay for it. Mexico has refused to do so.

In recent days, though, Trump tried to shift blame to Democrats for not acceding to his demand. He has given mixed messages on whether he would sign any bill into law.

After the luncheon at the White House, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said, "It's clear to me he believes the additional funding is necessary."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York met with Pence on Saturday at the request of the White House, according to Schumer's office. But the senator's spokesman said they remained "very far apart" on a spending agreement.

Schumer said the "Trump shutdown" could end immediately if the president simply dropped his demand for money. "If you want to open the government, you must abandon the wall," Schumer said.

Democrats said they were open to other proposals that didn't include the wall, which Schumer said was too costly and ineffective. They have offered to keep spending at existing levels of \$1.3 billion for border fencing and other security.

But Trump, digging in, tweeted about "the crisis of illegal

activity" at American's southern border is "real and will not stop until we build a great Steel Barrier or Wall."

Republican leaders largely stayed in the background of the negotiations. McConnell acknowledged that any deal to reopen government would require Democratic support for passage and the president's signature.

Senators approved a bipartisan deal earlier in the week to keep the government open into February and provide \$1.3 billion for border security projects, but not the wall. But as Trump faced criticism from conservatives for "caving" on a campaign promise, he pushed to House to approve a package temporarily financing the government but also setting aside \$5.7 billion for the border wall.

A test vote in the Senate on Friday showed that Republicans lacked the 60 votes needed to advance the House plan.

Pelosi, poised to become speaker, said in a letter to colleagues Saturday that "until President Trump can publicly commit to a bipartisan resolution, there will be no agreement before January when the new House Democratic Majority will swiftly pass legislation to re-open

government."

The impasse blocked money for nine of 15 Cabinet-level departments and dozens of agencies, including the departments of Homeland Security, Transportation, Interior, Agriculture, State and Justice.

Those being furloughed included nearly everyone at NASA and 52,000 workers at the Internal Revenue Service. About 8 in 10 employees of the National Park Service were to stay home; many parks were expected to close.

Some agencies, including the Pentagon and the departments of Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services, were already funded and will operate as usual. Also still functioning were the FBI, the Border Patrol and the Coast Guard. Transportation Security Administration officers continued to staff airport checkpoints and air traffic controllers were on the job.

Many of Congress' most conservative Republicans welcomed such a confrontation, but most GOP lawmakers wanted to avoid one because polling showed the public opposed the wall and a shutdown over it.

Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee said, "This is a complete failure of negotiations and a success for no one."

TREES

FROM PAGE 1

catching up.

Sebastian Gorka, a former Trump national security aide, called the atmosphere a "true celebration of America's Judeo-Christian heritage and our oldest traditions."

"Having a great time at the Whitehouse Christmas Party!" said the caption former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus added to a photo he tweeted of himself and outgoing Chief of Staff John Kelly. Kelly succeeded Priebus just six months into the new administration. Now Kelly is set to depart at the end of December

after a topsy-turvy 18-month stint as Oval Office gatekeeper.

Other notable guests included "Six Million Dollar Man" Lee Majors, Trump supporters Diamond and Silk, and professional soccer player Wayne Rooney.

Largely absent from the festivities this year was the traditional opportunity for guests to have a picture taken with Trump and his wife, a time-consuming process that requires the president and first lady to stand for hours, grinning, posing and making small talk with hundreds of guests, some of whom they hardly know.

Trump retained the photo tradition for

members of the U.S. Secret Service, law enforcement and the military, as well as staff who work in the residence, according to a White House official who declined to be identified discussing details of the private receptions.

Except for a pair of Hanukkah receptions in the East Room, many of the holiday gatherings took place in the Grand Foyer, the open area on the State Floor across from the Blue Room.

The parties had a certain rhythm: A tuxedo-clad Trump and the first lady, who has worn a variety of white, black and green gowns, descended the red-carpeted staircase hand-in-hand

from their second-floor residence. Trump made roughly 10 minutes of welcoming remarks before inviting his wife to speak. They then mingled and posed for some informal photos before going back upstairs.

Williams said he saw "warmth" between the couple.

"You watch that body language. She was really happy. And she was really happy to be with him," Williams said, adding that the president's remarks were "upbeat."

The parties also offered job-searching opportunities for some of those on the hunt.

Trump needs to find new leaders for the departments of the Interior and

Defense and he's got a class of soon-to-be unemployed members of Congress to choose from if he wants.

Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., who lost his re-election and is one such member said to be interested in the Interior job, attended last Saturday's Congressional Ball at the White House.

Left off the holiday schedule was the annual party for the White House press corps, a likely result of Trump's sour relations with journalists who cover him and the administration.

As an alternative, the White House said it has arranged tours for reporters and their families who have asked to see the decorations.

LINCOLN

FROM PAGE 1

Todd Lincoln? A 1948 limited edition copy of "John Brown's Body," the Stephen Vincent Benet poem?

Maybe not. But selling them would hardly make a dent in the Springfield museum's debt. A copy of Benet's Civil War folk epic from the same printing goes for under \$100 online. A New York dealer sold an 1851 Junius Booth playbill several years ago for \$400.

"You can't take nine of those pieces and come up with \$9 million," said New Jersey-based appraiser Brian Kathenes. "You'd probably have to go after some of the better stuff or sell a lot more of it off."

In Christmas-season parlance, the museum's predicament reminds Kathenes of "The Gift of the Magi," the O. Henry short story of an impoverished couple trying to buy gifts for each other: "You sell off the reason you exist to exist."



AP FILE PHOTO

This 2007 photo, shows Abraham Lincoln's iconic stovepipe hat

Museums' code of ethics prohibits the sale of items in collections for anything other than buying additional items.

Yet the Lincoln museum foundation says such a sale may be necessary. A foundation statement released last week says negotiations and fundraising — including a GoFundMe page — continue while material is culled for potential

debt reduction "without selling off core items." The foundation's attempts for a state grant have met resistance.

Harold Holzer, the prolific and award-winning author and Lincoln scholar, said museums routinely sell duplicative items or "second-rate things" acquired along with prized treasures.

"But not to pay the rent," Holzer said,

"because the temptation is too large to defenestrate the place in order to pay for the walls. The walls were built to protect the material. The material is not there to protect the walls."

The Taper collection is awash in riches: examples of Lincoln's earliest known writings, his presidential seal, replete with wax remnants from its last use; an 1839 Schuyler County legal brief that contains the signatures of both Lincoln for the plaintiff and his longtime rival, Stephen A. Douglas, for the defense; the blood-soaked kid gloves he had in his pocket the night he was assassinated.

The authenticity of some other items, such as a stovepipe hat, have been questioned. In an Illinois House hearing last month, Rep. Jeanne Ives, a Wheaton Republican, indicated that White Plains, New York, dealer Seth Kaller, asked in 2007 to validate the agreed purchase price, also questioned the provenance of a Mary Lincoln fan and

a clock purportedly from Lincoln's Springfield law office.

A list of the collection provided to the AP has 701 entries comprising at least 1,200 separate items. While 561 items are associated with the name Lincoln — from the president's grandfather, Col. Abraham Lincoln in 1778, to his daughter-in-law, Mary Harlan Lincoln in 1942 — 265 items are related to the Booths, only 52 of which are associated with the man who killed Lincoln in 1865.

Yet Kathenes wonders what some researcher might find among seemingly innocuous items.

"Everything that you remove exponentially cripples the institution," Holzer added. "It makes things worse, not better. Even if you collect some money, your reputation is so scarred that I don't think it would ever recover."

Taper collection of Lincolniana: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/5642261-Lincoln-Artifacts.html>

ALMANAC

Today is **Sunday, Dec. 23**, the 357th day of 2018. There are eight days left in the year.

Today in history

On **Dec. 23, 1948**, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.

On this date

In **1783**, George Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Continental Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Va.

In **1788**, Maryland passed an act to cede an area "not exceeding ten miles square" for the seat of the national government; about 2/3 of the area became the District of Columbia.

In **1913**, the Federal Reserve System was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act.

In **1954**, the first successful human kidney transplant took place at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a surgical team removed a kidney from 23-year-old Ronald Herrick and implanted it in Herrick's twin brother, Richard.

In **1975**, Richard S. Welch, the Central Intelligence Agency station chief in Athens, was shot and killed outside his home by the militant group November 17.

In **1997**, a federal jury in Denver convicted Terry Nichols of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing, declining to find him guilty of murder. (Nichols was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

In **2003**, the government announced the first suspected (later confirmed) case of mad cow disease in United States, in Washington state.

Five years ago: Mikhail Kalashnikov, 94, designer of the AK-47 assault rifle, died in Izhevsk, Russia.

Today's birthdays

Actor Ronnie Schell is 87. Emperor Akihito of Japan is 85. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Paul Hornung is 83. Actor Frederic Forrest is 82. Rock musician Jorma Kaukonen is 78. Rock musician Ron Bushy is 77. Actor-comedian Harry Shearer is 75. U.S. Army Gen. Wesley K. Clark (ret.) is 74. Actress Susan Lucci is 72. Singer-musician Adrian Belew is 69. Rock musician Dave Murray (Iron Maiden) is 62. Actress Joan Severance is 60. Singer Terry Weeks is 55. Rock singer Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) is 54. The former first lady of France, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, is 51. Rock musician Jamie Murphy is 43. Jazz musician Irvin Mayfield is 41. Actress Estella Warren is 40. Actress Elvy Yost is 31. Actress Anna Maria Perez de Tagle is 28. Actor Spencer Daniels is 26. Actor Caleb Foote is 25.

Bible verse

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." — **John 17:3**.

God is not in hiding. He has revealed Himself in His Son, everything around us, and the desire within us to know Him. Meet the one who made you and learn why. Let his will be your way.

ODD NEWS

A Grinch steals Christmas trees

BARTON, Vt. (AP) — A Grinch has hit a Vermont tree farm, stealing thousands of dollars of Christmas trees.

The Caledonian Record reports that thieves cut the lock on a chained gate last month in Barton, drove onto the lot, and stole brush and 18 to 20 trees worth an estimated \$300 each. Greg Dowd, the owner of the property, says they also stole a game camera that was being used for surveillance.

Dowd says the 20-foot trees that have been pruned for years were supposed to be sold to municipalities and churches in the future. He expects the thieves cut them up to use for wreaths.

Dowd is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

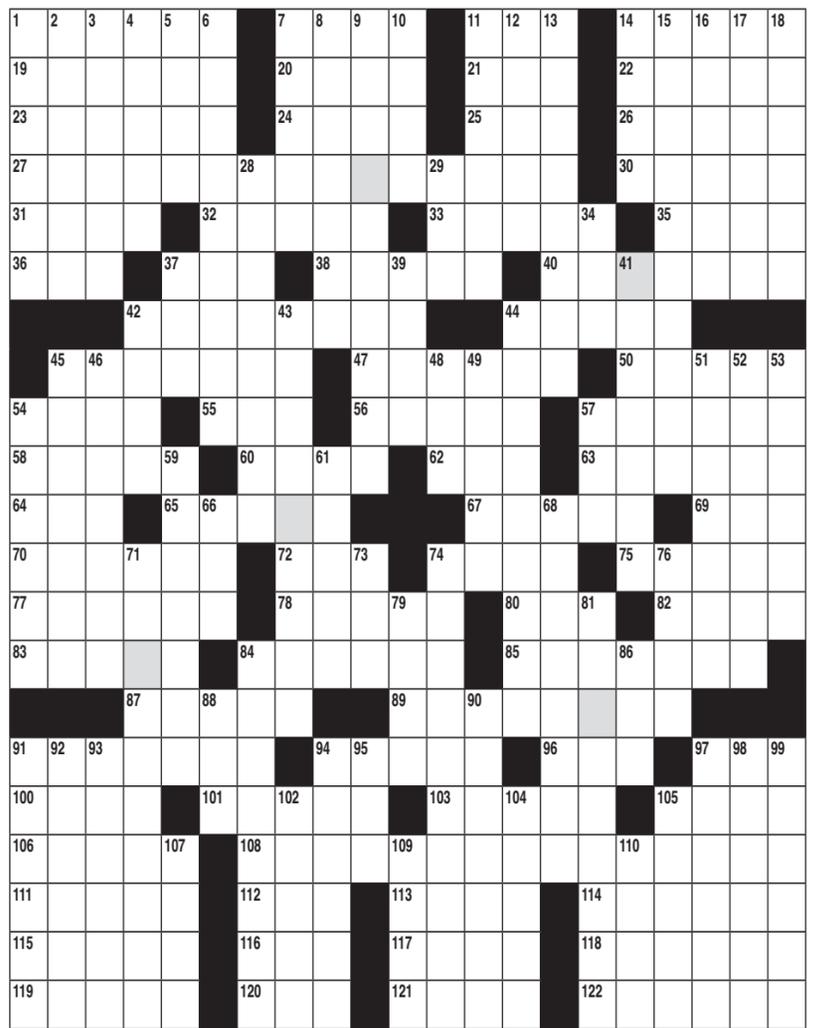
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1216

TOP GEAR

BY SAM EZERSKY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Early wake-up time
 - 7 Title for Iran's Ruhollah Khomeini
 - 11 Herbert of old "Pink Panther" films
 - 14 Penultimate tourney round
 - 19 "Doesn't matter to me"
 - 20 Not yet completed
 - 21 ___ moment
 - 22 Sash go-with
 - 23 Ancient capital of Laconia
 - 24 Brew
 - 25 Letters before single, double or triple
 - 26 Lace tip
 - 27 Casting doubt on
 - 30 Lake Volta's land
 - 31 The best, informally
 - 32 Radio/TV character played in film by Michael Horse (1981) and Johnny Depp (2013)
 - 33 Like some ruins in the Western Hemisphere
 - 35 Lookalike
 - 36 8.5" x 11": Abbr.
 - 37 Scare quote?
 - 38 Words of resignation
 - 40 Topic concerned with hacking and software rights
 - 42 Put on a few layers
 - 44 Three-star mil. rank
- DOWN**
- 45 Pope who supported the House of Borgia
 - 47 Diminishing returns?
 - 50 They're between shoulders
 - 54 Word with shot or suit
 - 55 Rowdydow
 - 56 Not abstaining
 - 57 Much sales
 - 58 "No bid"
 - 60 An end to depend
 - 62 Head honcho
 - 63 "Resume speed," musically
 - 64 Emailing option
 - 65 Riddle-ending query
 - 67 Toward the stern
 - 69 Its first letter stands for "India"
 - 70 Certain tenant
 - 72 Lex, e.g., in N.Y.C.
 - 74 Misfortunes
 - 75 Going for broke
 - 77 Sides in Risk
 - 78 Bette Midler's "Divine" nickname
 - 80 Tense periods, for short
 - 82 Archer of film
 - 83 Dangerous environment
 - 84 Easy-to-swallow pill
 - 85 Food item cracked open before eating
 - 87 Prized duck
 - 89 It comes after II Chronicles
 - 91 "Today was just brutal!"
 - 94 Coiner of the term "Oedipus complex"
 - 96 /
 - 97 Thickheaded
 - 100 Words of denial
 - 101 Lost
 - 103 All-nighter aid
 - 105 Sets of plotted points
 - 106 Shade of pink
 - 108 Immediately ... or where this puzzle's five shaded squares appear?
 - 111F loor
 - 112 Japanese symbol of luck
 - 113 Largo or lento
 - 114 Swimming
 - 115 Notable schemer
 - 116 Some dash lengths
 - 117 Rock stars are frequently on this
 - 118 Come out
 - 119 Standard parts of combo meals
 - 120 "I'm good, thanks"
 - 121 E-tail site since 2005
 - 122 King's speech?
- ACROSS**
- 9 "Play next" command on a music app
 - 10 Shade of green
 - 11 Cowboy's rope
 - 12 "Here we go again ..."
 - 13 Followers of openers
 - 14 By oneself, in a way
 - 15 It's played for half a beat in 4/4 time
 - 16 Country whose name consists of three consecutive state postal abbreviations
 - 17 Peaceful
 - 18 ___ spawn (hellions)
 - 28 "Ooh, let's do that!"
 - 29 "Eww, that's enough!"
 - 34 MetLife Stadium team, on scoreboards
 - 37 Clear and set, as tables
 - 39 Scanned IDs
 - 41 Italian pistol
 - 42 Gets to
 - 43 One who cracks the whip?
 - 44 Plastic construction piece
 - 45 Serving in a red-and-white striped box
 - 46 Totally out
 - 48 Juice brand
 - 49 Longtime N.B.A. on TNT analyst
 - 51 Who wrote "Some people talk to animals. Not many listen, though. That's the problem."
 - 52 Action of a ladle



- 53 "Miss ___" (2016 political thriller)
- 54 Some fall births
- 57 Heroes of the Battle of Britain, for short
- 59 Babe
- 61 Mannerly
- 66 Freelancers' units: Abbr.
- 68 Colorful treat that resembles a rocket
- 71 All-Star Mets catcher of the 1990s-2000s
- 73 Corner PC key
- 74 Tow destination
- 76 Scat snippet
- 79 "Quién ___?"
- 81 Sanctuaries
- 84 Be conned
- 86 [Shiver]
- 88 With 93-Down, half of a double helix
- 90 Skunklike, say
- 91 Like TV but not radio?
- 92 "Old MacDonald" farm sounds
- 93 See 88-Down
- 94 Purchase at an African market
- 95 "Yay, team!"
- 97 Cause damage
- 98 Volunteer's declaration
- 99 Snowball fighter's protection
- 102 Botanical opening
- 104 Marriage money
- 105 "Ciao!"
- 107 Gifts that one usually bows when receiving
- 109 Certain dirección
- 110 What stars have

FOR ANSWERS TURN TO PAGE 3

Ask the Fool

Split-Adjusted

Please explain "trading curbs." — *H.S., New Orleans*

Trading curbs (also known as "circuit breakers" or "collars") are rules that restrict trading in the stock market in times of extreme volatility. When triggered, they can suspend trading for a specified period of time or halt trading for the rest of the day. The idea is that such breaks will stop or pause whatever trading frenzy or panic is underway, giving investors a chance to assess what's going on and make decisions in a calmer and more informed fashion.

Trading curbs have been refined over time; the most recent rules halt market trading for 15 minutes if the S&P 500 drops more than 7 percent from its previous day's close — unless this happens at or after 3:25 p.m., in which case the markets will remain open until their regular 4 p.m. closing time. If the S&P 500 falls 20 percent below its previous day's close, trading is halted for the rest of the day. "Limit up, limit down" breakers, meanwhile, are designed to briefly restrict trading in a particular stock (or exchange-traded fund) within a defined band when triggered.

Can I track my portfolio online without a brokerage account? — *G.A., Rutland, Vermont*

Yes. Many sites, such as Yahoo! Finance and AOL.com, offer portfolio tracking, as do many brokerages. You can enter the various stocks and funds you own and the prices at which you bought them — and then click in any time to see the latest value of each holding, as well as of your overall portfolio. You can even create a separate portfolio for stocks on your watch list to help you keep an eye on them.

Want more information about stocks? Send us an email to foolnews@fool.com.



Fool's School

Signs of Trouble

We spend a lot of time learning to identify great investments, but what about the stinkers? This review of red flags can help you spot, and steer clear of, bad investments.

- A very low price: If a stock is priced below about \$5 per share, it's generally a penny stock, known for volatility and often easily manipulated by scammers. A solid company with a stock price that low is likely to be experiencing a rough patch.
- Over-the-top promotion: If you're seeing lots of capital letters and exclamation marks and you're being urged to act quickly, beware. Bad investments are often pitched with language such as "amazing breakthrough," "miracle cures" and "HUGE profits!"
- Strangely specific claims about future returns: Examples include a "potential 3,227 percent gain" or an expected deal that "will soon push the stock above \$20!" A newsletter might claim that its recommendation should rise "more than 40 percent in 30 days."

- An unprofessional company website: Expect and demand clear, honest communication from companies you invest in. Their websites should include their audited financial statements, too. If a company's website features poor grammar and misspellings and pages that are "under construction" or absent, that's a red flag.
- If these companies being promoted were really such terrific opportunities, their shares would be greedily snapped up by savvy investors instead of being hawked to whoever will buy them. These so-called bargains that sound too good to be true are generally bad news.
- Remember, too, that a low share price doesn't mean a stock is a good value. A 50-cent stock can soon become a 5-cent one (and often does), while a \$200 stock can grow to \$400 — and keep growing.
- When researching possible investments, seek companies with growing sales and earnings, little debt, ample cash and sustainable competitive advantages. Don't just fall for an exciting story. Demand proven profits, not just possibilities.



Name That Company

I'm the product of a 2010 merger between Ticketmaster, which was founded in 1976, and a concert promoter founded in 1997. (I took the promoter's name.) Today, based in Beverly Hills, California, I'm the world's premier live-entertainment company. Last year I had 86 million attendees at about 30,000 events in 40 countries. I own, operate or manage 78 clubs and theaters, including House of Blues and Fillmore locations. I also promote monster truck shows, manage sports celebrities and coordinate touring theatrical shows. I employ around 37,000 full-time and seasonal workers and rake in more than \$10 billion annually. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

My Dumbest Investment

Robotic Competition

My dumbest investment was buying 75 shares of a small company at \$4 per share and then buying more when it fell to \$3, all based on excitement over a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. Well, the company's recent share price was nearly where it was before that approval. — *S., online*

The Fool Responds: This small company is developing robotic surgical equipment, and though that's indeed a promising and growing field, a closer look at the business would have revealed some concerns. For starters, it has posted only losses in the last decade.

How has it stayed afloat for that period? Well, a look at its financial reports over time shows its total shares outstanding rising from roughly 13 million in 2013 to more than 200 million recently. That's called dilution — when a company issues more shares, reducing the value of each share. (Imagine a pizza that was cut into eight pieces being cut into 80 pieces instead — each one would be a lot smaller.)

The company did get FDA approval for one of its surgical systems, but it will compete against Intuitive Surgical, which installed 231 of its systems in the third quarter, compared to the smaller company's four installations. Intuitive Surgical has long been profitable, too, with billions in cash and equivalents.

There's hope for your shares if the company can sell more and more systems and generate profits. But it's risky.

The Motley Fool Take

Calling Verizon

Leading telecommunications company Verizon Communications (NYSE: VZ), overlooked by many investors, has been sporting an attractive stock price. The company has 116.9 million wireless subscribers, and considering how addicted most of us are to our phones, that's a large and stable business to be in. Over the last five years, Verizon's free cash flow has been solidly positive.

Verizon has been laying the expensive framework for its 5G network, which has launched in limited markets. That's great for long-term investors, because 5G should enable Verizon to increase prices on premium customers, while driving new wireless technologies, such as self-driving cars and virtual reality, that will increase the number of wireless connections customers have. The first 5G product to hit the market is 5G Home, a home wireless product that competes with broadband. Being able to offer home broadband wirelessly will expand Verizon's market potential and should drive incremental growth. That's just the beginning of 5G innovations.

The company does face intensifying competition, such as from T-Mobile, along with rising costs. It's carrying more than \$100 billion of debt, too. But its stock price reflects that, with its recent single-digit price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio and its dividend recently yielding 4.2 percent. Overall, Verizon appears to be a solid value stock with a lot of long-term growth potential. (The Motley Fool has recommended Verizon.)

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I trace my roots back to the 1905 opening of the Star Furniture Company in Zeeland, Michigan, where I'm still based. Over the years, I made things such as clocks and leg splints for the Navy. In 1968, I introduced "the world's first open-plan modular system of panels and attaching components." Today I'm an office furnishings leader, with a market value recently near \$2 billion. My brands include my own name, along with Design Within Reach, Geiger International, Maharam, Nemschoff, Colebrook Bosson Saunders, naughtone, Maars Living Walls and HAY. Many of my designs are in museums. Who am I? (Answer: Herman Miller)



Want to Invest? Email us at foolnews@fool.com, and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

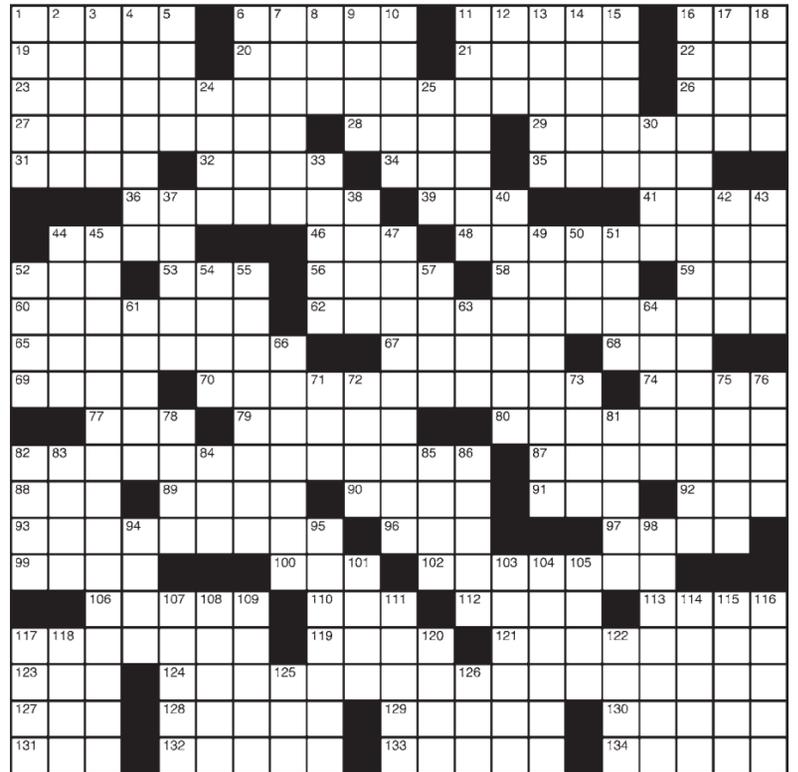
QUICK VISIT

By C.C. Burnikel

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| ACROSS | 74 Catcher's place | 134 Packed away | 54 Tough's territory |
| 1 Bowling pin wood | 77 Good times | | 55 Unwelcome giveaways |
| 6 Princess Charlotte, to Harry | 79 Bring down | DOWN | 57 Emergency menu |
| 11 Hornets, e.g. | 80 One often includes a colon | 1 Lombardy's capital | 61 Butterfingering |
| 16 2008 TARP beneficiary | 82 *Swindlers | 2 Place on a pedestal | 63 Tended tots |
| 19 Think tank nuggets | 87 Hearing range | 3 Raid targets | 64 Classic grape sodas |
| 20 "The Thin Blue Line" director Morris | 88 Surreal ending? | 4 Reason to challenge an out call | 66 Divide fairly |
| 21 Mexican month | 89 ___ song | 5 Those, in Tabasco | 71 Giant among low-cost carriers: Abbr. |
| 22 Stage coach | 90 Trash | 6 Sherpa, usually | 72 Four: Prefix |
| Hagen | 91 Pronoun for a princess | 7 Like a typical O. | 73 Biblical builder |
| 23 *Chances that slipped away | 92 "Mr. Blue Sky" band | 8 Boot the ball | 75 Dough |
| 26 Tricky bit | 93 They can yield immediate results | 9 Dove's digs | 76 Opposite of exo- |
| 27 Type of well | 96 Poker great Ungar | 10 Slip past | 78 Like comfy slippers |
| 28 Fulda tributary | 97 PlayStation | 11 "Mandatory Fun" parodist, familiarly | 81 "Three Coins ..." fountain |
| 29 Griller's flipper | 99 Baking amts. | 12 Red or army follower | 82 Punch deliverer |
| 31 Bird hangout | 100 Autobahn winter hazard | 13 Earthshaking event | 83 Venomous vipers |
| 32 Romance novelist Hilderbrand | 102 Take no side | 14 Gets ready | 84 "The Black Cat" author |
| 34 Gate datum: Abbr. | 106 Tibetan monks | 15 "Such a pity" | 85 "On the Bus With Rosa Parks" poet |
| 35 Windows forerunner | 110 Sports radio host Patrick | 16 *Former Chilean dictator | 86 Sights |
| 36 Type of jam in Sacher tortes | 112 Editor's retraction | 17 Leaning type: Abbr. | 94 Nicholas, for one |
| 39 One of the original Warner Bros. | 113 Salinger character who says to the story narrator, "I don't think I shall tell you my full name" | 18 Lady on stage | 95 Bet money an "all in" player can't win |
| 41 Sporty car roof | 117 First name in exploration | 24 Place to tie up | 98 Loafer's quality |
| 44 Long story | 119 Noteworthy stretches | 25 Court dividers | 101 Actress Gilbert |
| 46 Way to go: Abbr. | 121 Fruit-flavored frozen treat | 30 "... and your little dog, too!" dog | 103 Visit briefly ... and a hint to the answers to starred clues |
| 48 Frees | 123 Showy wrap | 33 "Ya think?" | 104 Bigelow alternative |
| 52 Platform site: Abbr. | 124 *Ristorante appetizers | 37 Medicare prescription drug section | 105 Lead-in to girl or boy |
| 53 Twitter forwards, on Twitter | 127 Overhead rumbler | 38 Jackson 5 member | 107 "Scarface" setting |
| 56 Kings Peak state | 128 "I'm with you" | 40 Hearty pastry | 108 '60s-'70s veep |
| 58 Just ___ bit | 129 Links hero, familiarly | 42 Capital on a fjord | 109 ___ voice: softly |
| 59 Ramallah-based org. | 130 ___ Blue: old laundry soap | 43 Menial laborer | 111 Twangy-sounding |
| 60 Make an ad spicier, say | 131 Graphic top | 44 Big bargain | 114 Tuckered over |
| 62 *True view | 132 "Uh-uh!" | 45 *Bending over backward, say | 115 Man with a code |
| 65 Shower unit? | 133 Bonkers | 47 Spiteful | 116 Nagano-based printer giant |
| 67 Gives someone a hand | | 49 Masters Tournament weekend groupings | 117 Provide fake cover for, e.g. |
| 68 Flake or Duckworth: Abbr. | | 50 Qtr.-ending month | 118 Sleeper agent |
| 69 Gin flavor | | 51 Luau souvenirs | 120 Texas MLBer |
| 70 *Often the best choice, in retrospect | | 52 Much of Eastern Eur., once | 122 To be, to Benoit |
| | | | 125 Non-neutral atom |
| | | | 126 "Wish Tree" artist |

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis



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GOREN BRIDGE

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH

- ♠ 8 4
- ♥ A 2
- ♦ Q 3
- ♣ K Q 10 9 7 5 3

WEST

- ♠ J 9 7 5 2
- ♥ 9 7 5
- ♦ 8 7 4
- ♣ 8 4

EAST

- ♠ A 6 3
- ♥ K 10 8 4
- ♦ K J 10 9
- ♣ A 6

SOUTH

- ♠ K Q 10
- ♥ Q J 6 3
- ♦ A 6 5 2
- ♣ J 2

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

"Master Bridge" was a 14-episode TV series produced in the United Kingdom in 1983. It featured team competition, for prize money, between eight international stars of the time, including the late Omar Sharif. A careful search will find them on YouTube. Sharif was South, in today's deal, the final deal in the Master Bridge series.

East won the opening spade lead with the ace. He knew that partner was broke, so he had to find a way to defeat the contract in his own hand. East found a spectacular shift to the king of hearts! He was attacking dummy's entry to the long club suit. Sharif played low from his hand and won the trick with dummy's ace. East ducked the first club, won the second, and reverted to spades, leading the six.

Sharif won with the king and tried to execute an end play. He cashed the queen of spades, followed by the queen and jack of hearts. East played his last spade, and then the eight and 10 of hearts. Sharif led the six of hearts for the end play, but East deftly followed suit with the carefully preserved four! No end play and down one for Sharif.

The same contract was defeated at the other table also after the same lovely defense. Could it have been made? Yes. Declarer would have prevailed had he played his six of hearts under the king at trick two. He would then have been able to end play East by leading his three of hearts to East's four.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this paper or icaeditors@tribpub.com)

CRYPTOGRAMS

CRYPTOGRAMS VAMPIRE DIARIES by Myles Mellor

1. H X P X W O E Y D C F S A N Y P A Q F O O P L
H B R W I R G Y N I P H B C B E W P I P G F W R P
X P X P F Y L N H X F L Y P F Q Q D S F Y C P Q B W R
G N Y G W Q F H N B O .
2. R I F R K V L W O W X W M E G M T J W N F L
K F N F M X K M U L Y W H I R W E H M E C
R N U W E H R V A Z T J F M O I V R I F N V Y Y M L
R I F U K F N F I M G W E H M A X V V C Y F Z C .
3. Q G K O M J N A U K L G P U B I D M I
N B J N K H ! Q G K C H K L A H K H Q G K A U
O K U C E M O P U A Q K I P F X E P U Q G K
F A X G Q D M I " C P B ' U K I P O K A F . "
4. N O W Q V C Q N U I V G W H W O R R T
P Y T R C N O E N P X W H N O R W E R T R N J W
N I W W J N R R X W C T Y X O W Y J U T O P R W G !

PUZZLE ANSWERS

(Puzzles on previous pages)



JUMBLE

Answer:

- PLIGHT SIMILE INFAMY
- UNWISE CANNON THWART

The team that scored the first goal was ahead —

AT THIS POINT IN THE GAME

1. The hungry vampire planned to subscribe to Vogue because he heard it had really marvelous circulation.
2. The two Sicilian vampires were always fighting and trying to bump each other off as they were having a blood feud.
3. The vampire chorus was pumped! They decided their very favorite song for the night was "You're So Vein."
4. An evil vampire went to Scotland as he wanted to take a peek at the Loch Neck Monster!

HOLIDAY MATHIS HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The unconventional wisdom is that unconventional wisdom doesn't exist. If a thing works, it works for many other people, too. All you have to do is dig around a bit to see who else is using it.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Come up with a name for the feeling you're having — something all yours, to encompass both the sweeping scope and the minute specificity of the emotion. It will help you move through or use the feeling to good effect.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are different definitions for the word pride, some focusing on a feeling of self-respect and worthiness and others focusing on a feeling of superiority and conceit. Pride is a precarious matter. Go cautiously in its expression.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). A return to merriness will have to do with letting go of a few things, especially things that won't matter in a week or even tomorrow. Clinging tightly to things that will inevitably pass can only lead to misery.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Go on and make your rules, and then try to follow them. One day is enough at first. Establish habits. Paradoxically, the more disciplined you are the freer you'll be.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Every day, you tolerate people who have different values, styles and preferences. Usually, it's not a problem, but it still takes self-control to live and let live, which is why it could be very relaxing to just stay home today.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To be correct and to have the approval of those who recognize this can be a very stable sort of feeling, but it's even more sta-

bilizing to know that whether or not you're correct and accepted, you're just fine.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The attempt to achieve security is silly, really — considering we live in the timespan of a blink on a spinning sphere hurtling through a vast universe. Yet you probably feel you need a little certainty today, and you'll get it, too.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In the past, you were punished for joy out of bounds. Now you restrict yourself needlessly. The biggest obstacle to your happiness is the simple fact that you're not allowing it. So give yourself permission.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Questions open options and keep you in loops of thought, but thinking doesn't always bring more clarity. Today it's better to go another route: Stop asking and start accepting.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It takes a strong person to acknowledge human vulnerabilities. A weaker person puffs up to compensate for limitations shared by most others on the planet.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Some relationships are so transactional it doesn't matter who is on the other end; it could be a robot or a unicorn and make no difference. But there are intangible things your loved one does that can't be duplicated by anyone.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 23). Passion will be tempered by companionship, loyalty, understanding and support. More points of interest include an exclusive arrangement you feel fortunate to take advantage of, a different mode of travel than you're used to and special clearance of some kind. Leo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 33, 1, 17 and 20.

'Like losing your legs': Duckworth pushed airlines to report on wheelchairs they break

By **KELLEN BROWNING**
McCLATCHY WASHINGTON
BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth was rolling up the airport ramp in her wheelchair after arriving in Chicago. She made it just a few feet, and then the chair collapsed underneath her.

Sometime between boarding the plane in Washington and leaving the aircraft hours later, the airline staff had managed to snap a 1-inch titanium rod on her customized wheelchair clean in half.

Then things got worse. "They kind of lugged me up the ramp and I sat in the waiting room area," said Duckworth, an Army veteran who lost both legs when her helicopter was shot down in Iraq. Eventually, someone brought her a large, ungainly airport wheelchair that required someone else to push it.

All that happened in 2015. The next year, Duckworth was elected to the U. S. Senate.

She found that no one had any idea how often these wheelchair problems happened. So this fall, she got a law passed requiring airlines to report to the Department of Transportation how many wheelchairs or motorized scooters they lose, mishandle or break. The reporting began this month, and disability advocates expect the reports to reveal a huge problem.

Airlines and disability groups are working together to "reduce the number of wheelchairs damaged in air travel" by examining



Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 15, 2016.

TNS PHOTO

airlines' handling and storage guidelines, training staff to handle wheelchairs and encouraging manufacturers to build wheelchairs suitable for airplane travel, said Alison McAfee, a spokeswoman for the lobbying group Airlines for America.

Airline personnel have damaged Duckworth's wheelchairs three times since 2013, including this month, when they jammed the wheel of her \$5,000 chair.

The senator travels with a congressional staffer who knows what to do in such situations. But when airlines break the average disabled traveler's wheelchair — a problem that Duckworth and other disability advocates

contend happens far too often — they're stuck.

"You sit there, and you are now immobilized," Duckworth said. "They've basically taken away your legs."

The mishandled-wheelchair numbers, broken down by airline, will be publicly available online as part of the Transportation Department's monthly Air Travel Consumer Reports. Proponents say the increased transparency will give consumers another measure to compare airlines, the same way flyers can view the number of flight delays or consumer complaints.

The numbers will "show how pervasive this problem is," said Stanley Brown, a quadriplegic Army veteran

who was paralyzed in a car accident while on duty in 1996.

Brown, president of the St. Louis chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America, said he has had four or five frustrating experiences where airline personnel damaged his wheelchair or failed to strap him into a chair used to transport to the plane seat, causing him to fall onto the tarmac. At one point, he was forced to duct-tape his wheelchair together while waiting a week for a replacement.

In 2016, the Obama administration ruled that airlines had to start reporting statistics by Jan. 1, 2018. But in 2017, the Trump administration agreed to a delay, which lasted until Duckworth's provision took effect this month.

Delta Air Lines and Airlines for America asked for the delay because the airline industry was "facing challenges with parts of this regulation and needs more time to implement it," according to the Transportation Department. McAfee said airlines used the extra time "to resolve several technical challenges," but would not say specifically what they were.

Duckworth has a different interpretation for the requested delay.

"They don't want people to know how bad they are," she said. She hopes the new law will incentivize airlines to avoid damaging wheelchairs and better train staff on how to handle them, because "consumers will vote with their dollars."

Mattis outlines strategic hazards facing next Pentagon chief

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR** and **ROBERT BURNS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The extraordinary resignation letter that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis handed to a surprised President Donald Trump was not just a product of two years of accumulating frustration with an impulsive boss, but an outline of the strategic hazards facing the next Pentagon chief.

Mattis, who was quietly back at work Friday while stunned Pentagon staff soldiered on around him, implicitly warned in his letter to the president of the threat to the U.S. from allowing alliances to fray and of the risk that disrespecting allies will undermine U.S. credibility.

It was an outline of the challenges facing the nation and whoever takes over as defense secretary when Mattis leaves Feb. 28.

"As this Administration continues to implode, Secretary Mattis' extraordinary resignation is a significant loss and a real indication that President Trump's foreign policy agenda has failed and continues to spiral into chaos," said Sen. Bob Menendez, the ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Mattis announced on Thursday his plan to resign, a move prompted by the decision by the president to pull all of the approximately 2,000 U.S. troops from the fight against the Islamic State group in northeastern Syria.

Mattis also was dismayed by plans under consideration to cut the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and, as his letter made clear, did not see eye to eye with a president who has expressed disdain for NATO and doubts about keeping troops in Asia.

The person nominated to succeed Mattis will face a Senate likely to probe for evidence of new strategic direction in hotspots like Syria, Afghanistan and the Korean peninsula.

In making clear that he could no longer tolerate Trump's approach to American foreign policy, Mattis appeared to fashion a resignation letter that not only expressed his reasons for leaving but also sounded an alarm. He implicitly criticized the president's unwillingness to stand up to Russia or take a stronger stance against Chinese assertiveness.

"I believe we must be resolute and unambiguous in our approach to those countries whose strategic interests are increasingly in tension with ours," Mattis wrote. "It is clear that China and Russia, for example, want to shape a world consistent with their authoritative model ... to promote their own interests at the expense of their neighbors, America and our allies."

"While the U.S. remains the indispensable nation in the free world, we cannot protect our interests or serve that role effectively without maintaining strong alliances and showing respect to those allies," Mattis wrote.

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SECTION C

Luxury home on Lake Jackson

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

This home is at 3600 Lakeview Drive in Sebring. It is priced for \$695,000 and is listed with Maureen Cool with Re/Max Realty Plus.

This luxury custom pool home was built in 2005 and is on a 24,360 square foot lot with 120 feet of lakefront. This gorgeous two-story home was recently renovated and loaded with upgrades, designer finishes and freshly painted neutral colors throughout.

The home boasts four bedrooms, 3.5 baths, a home office, family room and media room with 4,944 living square feet under air conditioning and 6,160 total square feet, including the oversized three-car garage, porches, lanai and two upstairs balconies.

This home is move-in ready with a versatile floor plan which is very flexible and has the potential for six bedrooms.

A walkway leads to the front entry and opens into the home through newly installed double etched glass doors with

COOL | 2C

DIRECTIONS

3600 Lakeview Drive, Sebring

From U.S. 27 in Sebring, turn onto Sebring Parkway. Turn right onto Scenic Highway. Turn left onto Lakeview Drive. The home is on the right.



COURTESY PHOTO

This home is at 3600 Lakeview Drive in Sebring. It is priced for \$695,000 and is listed with Maureen Cool with Re/Max Realty Plus.

Resort lifestyle home in Highlands Ridge

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

This home is at 4004 Carter Creek Drive in Avon Park. It is priced for \$279,900 and is listed with Helen Ferry and Kim Reed with The Reed-Ferry Team with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group at the Country Club of Sebring office.

If you've been dreaming about living in an active adult community that offers a low-maintenance lifestyle with plenty of amenities and activities to keep you young, this is the perfect home and Highlands Ridge is just the right community!

As you pull into the driveway, you'll notice the curb appeal with the home flanked by beautiful palm trees, concrete curbing around the drive and tasteful landscaping. Enter through the screened front porch to be greeted by a generous open floor plan.

The recently updated kitchen is a chef's

FERRY | 2C

DIRECTIONS

4004 Carter Creek Drive, Avon Park

From U.S. 27 in Sebring, turn onto Sebring Parkway. Turn left onto Home Avenue. Turn left onto County Road 17 North. Turn right onto Power Line Road. Turn left into Highlands Ridge onto South Clubhouse Boulevard. Turn right onto East Fairway Vista Drive. Turn left onto Carter Creek Drive. The home is on the right.



COURTESY PHOTO

This home is at 4004 Carter Creek Drive in Avon Park. It is priced for \$279,900 and is listed with Helen Ferry and Kim Reed with The Reed-Ferry Team with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group at the Country Club of Sebring office.

Beautiful, remodeled Lake Clay home

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

This home is at 1721 Lake Clay Drive in Lake Placid. It is priced for \$139,900 and is listed with The Elliott Team at Keller Williams Realty of Highlands County.

Nestled on the shores of a deep canal to Lake Clay, this beautiful home is move-in ready! Nothing is left to be done here; the home boasts new interior and exterior paint, flooring, counter tops, bathrooms, patios, deck/dock and more.

The home has a spacious, three-bedroom split floor plan. The property has desirable curb appeal with lush landscaping and an inviting front porch and front door.

Once you step inside you will quickly realize this home does not disappoint. It has a quaint breakfast nook area and a breakfast bar plus a large formal dining room.

The stunning kitchen has granite counters and stainless steel appliances. The room has a pass through counter to the dining room.

You will love the three bedrooms and two

ELLIOTT | 2C

DIRECTIONS

1721 Lake Clay Drive, Lake Placid

From U.S. 27 in Lake Placid, turn east onto County Road 621. Turn left onto Lake Clay Drive. The home is on the right.



COURTESY PHOTO

This home is at 1721 Lake Clay Drive in Lake Placid. It is priced for \$139,900 and is listed with The Elliott Team at Keller Williams Realty of Highlands County.

COOL FROM PAGE 1C

matching sidelights. The large foyer has an atrium with the oak staircase creating an open, spacious feel the minute you enter the home.

The large foyer flows nicely to the living room to the right and dining room straight ahead. You will love the cozy reading nook under the stairs. Large double doors open from the foyer to a screen porch overlooking the lake for great breezes and to bring the outdoors in.

The flow of the floor plan was designed for entertaining. The living room has a stone fireplace and windows offering 180-degree view of

Lake Jackson. The space is open with a breakfast bar separating the living room from the gourmet kitchen.

The kitchen has a center island, lots of counter top space for food prep and serving, a coffee station, plus new GE stainless-steel appliances. The cabinets features many glass front doors for display. There is also a breakfast space to accommodate a large table.

Another bar separates the spacious dining room and there is also a wet bar that is perfect when entertaining guests.

French doors open to the lanai and caged pool area.

Downstairs also includes a beautiful private master retreat, with an

office alcove and private door opening to the pool area. The master suite is elegant with a tray ceiling and cove lighting. The wood look tiled flooring was recently installed.

The spacious master bath includes a walk-in shower, soak tub, dual sink vanity, toilet closet and oversized walk-in closet with custom storage.

Downstairs also has a home office and a guest suite with private bathroom. A spacious half bath also serves as a pool bath. The large laundry room is conveniently located downstairs.

For more information, call Cool at 863-873-7243, email maureen@acoolrealtor.com or visit TheCoolTeam.com.

People in Real Estate



Maureen Cool is with Re/Max Realty Plus. Call 863-873-7243.



Norman and Mandy Elliott are with Keller Williams of Highlands County. Call 863-443-0480 or 863-273-2861.



Helen Ferry is with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group. Call 863-381-1089.

HOW TO APPEAR IN PEOPLE IN REAL ESTATE

MEMBERS OF THE HEARTLAND ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS WHO WANT TO SUBMIT ARTICLES ABOUT THEIR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS SHOULD CALL EILEEN POWERS AT 863-386-5809. PEOPLE IN REAL ESTATE SUBMISSIONS APPEAR ON A SPACE AVAILABILITY BASIS. ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FERRY FROM PAGE 1C

dream with its white cabinets, stainless steel appliances, ceramic floors, pantry, tiled backsplash, wine fridge and staggered cabinets. A breakfast area overlooks the back yard and a breakfast bar separates the kitchen from the living area.

The spacious great room adjoins the kitchen and dining Area. It is open to the Florida room through pocketing French doors. This is the perfect home for family holidays with its flowing floor plan and multiple living areas, allowing all your guests to mingle.

You'll enjoy relaxing in the screened lanai with its fantastic view of the pool, golf course and landscaped yard. The heated, salt water pool is the perfect place to be on hot Florida summer days.

Or just sit in the shade of the lanai enjoying nature or reading your favorite novel.

The master suite is 15 by 16, spacious enough for a sitting area. It has a large walk-in closet, cove ceiling and crown molding. The master bath has been recently updated and boasts a double vanity with granite counters, a jetted tub, glass blocks to let in natural light and a tiled walk-in shower.

Two other guest rooms share another full bath. A guest powder room half bath is off the laundry room.

The laundry room acts as a mud room coming in from the garage and includes cabinets and a newer washer and dryer.

Other features of this fabulous three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home includes a three-car garage, a new roof in 2018, exhaust fan in garage, polyfoam insulation

on exterior block walls, Thermopane windows and newer appliances.

Located just minutes from downtown, shopping and restaurants, this well-maintained home built in 2004 offers 2,406 square feet of air-conditioned living space with 3,467 total square footage. The low homeowner's association fee covers lawn mowing and edging.

This beautiful community offers many amenities. There are two championship golf courses, restaurants, two heated pools, library, fitness center, pickle ball, shuffleboard, tennis and more.

To schedule a private viewing, call Ferry at 863-381-1089 or email Hbferry@comcast.net or call Reed at 863-381-6575 or email KimBReed@comcast.net. Visit HomesForSaleSebring.com. Search for MLS 250469.

ELLIOTT FROM PAGE 1C

full baths, an indoor laundry room and more. You will also love the location

on the canal. You can fish right from your dock/deck and enjoy nightly bonfires right from the built in fire-pit. You may keep your boat on your own property and get to Lake Clay with

ease as it is just a short boat ride down the canal.

For more information, call The Elliott Team at 863-658-3780. Ask about MLS 260141.

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2004 Built 3BR, 2BA with nearly 2000 square feet of living space. Half acre, vinyl privacy fenced yard. To receive a detailed property report, including price & property photos, text "LIST1115302" to (800) 701-6509

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Completely remodeled 4BR, 2.5BA home! Beautiful granite kitchen and baths. Screen porch, new metal roof and more! To receive a detailed property report, including price & property photos, text "LIST 1350389" to (800) 701-6509

HALF ACRE
Quiet dead end road. Nice 2BR, 1.5BA, 1 Car Garage. Bonus room can easily be 3rd bedroom. Detached garage/workshop in back yard. To receive a detailed property report, including price & property photos, text "LIST1223413" to (800) 701-6509

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Sebring BEAUTIFUL HOME ON 1.4 ACRES
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• Kitchen w/SS cooktop, double oven, island
\$559,400 MLS#249303
Helen Ferry (863) 381-1089



Sebring STUNNING LAKE SEBRING HOME
• 3BR/2BA, 1853 Sq.Ft.
• New roof, dock, & enclosure around pool
• Lot next door included. SS appliances
\$425,000 MLS#249886
Elease DeYoung (863) 414-1450



Sebring LAKE JACKSON HOME
• 4BR/3.5BA, 5288 Sq.Ft.
• In ground pool, multiple porches
• 3+ garage, fireplace
\$409,900 MLS#250067
Lazaro Martinez (863) 458-0532



Lake Placid PLENTY OF SPACE!
• 4BR/4.5BA, 3862 Sq.Ft.
• 375' of frontage on 2 canals to Lake Grassy
• 2 car garage + 26x29 detached garage
\$409,900 MLS#249457
Ann Freeman (863) 243-3418



Lake Placid BEAUTIFUL NEW CONSTRUCTION
• 3BR/2.5BA, 2056 Sq.Ft.
• Metal roof, split plan, 2 car garage
• New construction & on Lake Sirena
\$369,500 MLS#241942
Brooke Foster (863) 441-0781



Lake Placid PLACID LAKES HOME
• 3BR/2BA, 2290 Sq.Ft.
• 18"x18" earth-tone tile
• Screened lanai, & in ground pool
\$269,000 MLS#250206
Carole Polk (863) 840-1083



Sebring CUSTOM BUILT HOME
• 3 BR/2.5 BA, 2620 Sq.Ft.
• 1 Owner
• Great house for entertaining!
\$265,900 MLS#248862
Lisa Terrell (863) 414-0358



Sebring NEW CONSTRUCTION!
• 3BR/2BA, 1215 Sq.Ft.
• Estimated completion end of Nov.
• Wood cabinets, granite, SS appliances
\$250,000 MLS#249870
Barbara Bonasera (863) 441-0168



Lake Placid HOME ON 4+ ACRES
• 3BR/3BA, 1854 Sq.Ft.
• Designed for in-law/quest quarters
• New roof 2018, new exterior paint
\$249,900 MLS#248917
Carol Edwards (863) 441-2994



Lake Placid WELL MAINTAINED HOME
• 3BR/2BA, 1433 Sq.Ft.
• Open concept kitchen
• Tile flooring, extra detached garage/workshop
\$229,900 MLS#260296
MICHAEL GAREY (863) 202-0080



Sebring NATURE LOVER'S PARADISE
• 2BR/1.5BA, 1364 Sq.Ft.
• Lake Sebring frontage
• New roof & AC in 2014
\$225,000 MLS#249966
Lisa Terrell (863) 414-0358



Highlands Ridge BEAUTIFUL GOLF COURSE HOME
• 2BR/2BA, 2110 Sq.Ft.
• Screened lanai overlooks golf course
• Kitchen w/custom wood cabinets
\$224,500 MLS#247672
Jamie LaMere (863) 381-5763



Sebring ONE OF A KIND PROPERTY
• 3BR/2BA, 1314 Sq.Ft.
• On 1.95 acres. Detached shed
• Large family room
\$199,900 MLS#249881
Lazaro Martinez (863) 458-0532



Lake Placid ATTENTION ALL BUYERS!
• 3BR/3BA, 2515 Sq.Ft.
• With in-law suite
• All new roof, AC, flooring, paint
\$194,900 MLS#249894
Roger Ravensborg (863) 840-3298



Lake Placid VIEW OF LAKE GRASSY
• 3BR/2BA, 2320 Sq.Ft.
• New roof in 2018
• Kitchen w/wrap around bar, pantry
\$189,900 MLS#248892
Debra & Dennis Rutledge (863) 441-2039



Highlands Ridge LOVELY OPEN PLAN
• 2BR/2BA, 1389 Sq.Ft.
• 20'x20' Great room
• Kitchen w/white cabinets, SS appliances
\$166,900 MLS#249049
Helen Ferry (863) 381-1089



Sebring ATTRACTIVE & ADORABLE OFFICE
• 1,194 Sq.Ft. Building
• On Hammock Road. 4 Offices
• Reception, conference, break room
\$164,900 MLS#250127
Kim Reed (863) 318-6575



Lake Placid CHECK THIS OUT!
• 2BR/2.5BA, 1176 Sq.Ft.
• Oversized kitchen w/lots of cabinets
• New roof, and AC
\$159,900 MLS#260191
Carol Edwards (863) 441-2994



Sebring LOVELY, IMMACULATE, TASTEFUL
• 2BR/2BA, 1816 Sq.Ft.
• Large Florida room overlooking pond
• Newer roof, AC. 55+ community
\$159,900 MLS#249063
Kim Reed (863) 381-6575



Avon Park NEW NEW NEW!
• 2BR/2BA, 1884 Sq.Ft.
• Total remodel, granite SS appliances
• Thermopane windows. Detached garage
\$158,500 MLS#249117
Rona Port (863) 414-6575



Lake Placid SPACIOUS CUSTOM HOME
• 3BR/2BA, 1736 Sq.Ft.
• Stone covered fireplace
• Indoor 11x12 spa area
\$148,000 MLS#248571
Mary McCoy (951) 204-0667



Lake Placid ATTENTION ALL BUYERS
• 3BR/2BA, 1091 Sq.Ft.
• Rear screened porch
• Newer privacy fence
\$139,900 MLS#260192
Roger Ravensborg (863) 840-3298



Sebring VILLA LOCATED ON GOLF COURSE
• 2BR/2BA, 1509 Sq.Ft.
• Country Club of Sebring
• Entertain on air conditioned FL room
\$139,900 MLS#249042
Helen Ferry (863) 381-1089



Lake Placid PLENTY OF PRIVACY
• 2BR/2BA, 1140 Sq.Ft.
• Nicely landscaped yard, new irrigation pump
• Newer metal roof, High efficiency windows, security system
\$139,900 MLS#260181
Kim Reed (863) 381-6575



Lake Placid PLACID LAKES HOME
• 2BR/2BA, 1246 Sq.Ft.
• New flooring, kitchen, & baths
• Corner lot. Large porch overlooks yard
\$139,000 MLS#249974
Rona Port (863) 414-6575



Lake Placid LEISURE LAKES HOME
• 2BR/2BA, 1200 Sq.Ft.
• Roof new in 2017, newer kitchen cabinets
• French doors to tiled, covered patio.
\$139,000 MLS#249554
Carole Polk (863) 840-1083



Sebring QUAIN HOME ON 2 ACRES
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• Front wrap around porch
• Bonus room & inside laundry
\$137,700 MLS#250069
Lazaro Martinez (863) 458-0532



Lake Placid RENOVATED TOWNHOUSE!
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• All new kitchen cabinets, counter, sink
• New appliances, updated baths, windows. More!
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Carol Edwards (863) 441-2994



Lake Placid LEISURE LAKES FURNISHED HOME
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• Galley kitchen w/breakfast nook
• 20x12 Family room
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Carol Edwards (863) 441-2994



Lake Placid LOVELY SYLVAN SHORES HOME
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• Eat-in kitchen w/breakfast bar
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Avon Park CHARMING HISTORIC HOME
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• Original hardwood floors throughout
• Large kitchen. Fenced backyard
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Sebring COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY
• High traffic area
• Single story, metal roof
• Building Only
\$99,500 MLS#250447
Hyacinth Baxter (863) 443-7285



Sebring BEST KEPT SECRET
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• Mobile on owned land/Francis II
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Sebring MOBILE ON OWNED LAND
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• Well maintained, move in ready
• Sold furnished. New 10x12 shed
\$79,900 MLS#249817
Lisa Terrell (863) 414-0358



Sebring FANTASTIC VIEW!
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• End Unit condo overlooks Lake Jackson
• New windows & sliders leading to patio
\$85,800 MLS#250291
Marilyn Stokes (863) 835-1980



Sebring HAWK'S LANDING LOT
• 2.5 Acres in gated community
• Build your dream home here
• Wooded area, yet still in the city limits
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Our pension system needs fixing

The private pension system in the United States is in transition from defined-benefit plans to defined-contribution plans. On balance, this may be a step in the wrong direction. The jury is still out, however, and much will depend on how defined-contribution plans evolve in the future.

Early in my career I worked for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which had a defined-benefit plan for its employees similar to those at most large firms. Under this plan, the bank contributed periodically to a reserve fund earmarked for future payments to retired employees. The promised future payment amounts were based on the employee's compensation levels and years of service. The pension vesting period was 10 years, which meant that if you left the bank after nine years, as I did, you lost the pension rights.

In accepting a professorship at the University of Pennsylvania, I also transitioned from the defined-benefit pension plan of the bank to a 401(k) defined-contribution plan at the university. Under this arrangement, I assumed control over my pension. 401(k) accounts were opened in my name at TIAA/CREF and Vanguard, into which

MORTGAGE PROFESSOR Jack Guttentag

I made periodic tax-deferred contributions. With this type of plan, I vested immediately, in that the money contributed to the accounts belonged to me.

Employers offering defined-contribution plans may or may not contribute to the plans. In many cases they offer to match the employee's contribution up to some maximum amount. Employer contributions may be subject to a vesting period.

While states, municipalities and public agencies have continued with defined-benefit plans, private business firms have largely shifted to defined-contribution plans. This enables them to avoid the large balance sheet liability generated by the commitment to provide defined benefits over an indefinite future period. From a retiree perspective, however, defined contribution plans have some major weaknesses.

Pre-retirement weaknesses

The weakness that has generated the most attention is that employees have not been saving enough in

their 401(k)s to assure a comfortable retirement. With a defined-benefit plan, employees qualify automatically, but with defined-contribution plans they must enroll and authorize a deduction from their paycheck. Shortsightedness is part of human nature; it results in procrastination, which results in underfunding. A number of initiatives aimed at combating this problem are in process, including automatic enrollment.

A second pre-retirement weakness is that small firms find the costs of administering a 401(k) plan too burdensome to bother. For this reason, a large number of private-sector employees do not have access to a 401(k) at work. Legislation that would authorize plans covering multiple employers is now making its way

through Congress with bipartisan support.

A post-retirement weakness: Unmanaged mortality risk

The post-retirement weaknesses in 401(k)-based plans have not generated nearly as much attention. Perhaps the most critical is the problem of managing mortality risk. With defined benefit plans, the employer manages mortality risk by spreading pension commitments across a population of employees with different lifespans. The employee who retires with a 401(k), in contrast, is on her own. She knows how much is in her accounts when she retires, and she can estimate the future earnings rate on those funds, but she does not know how long those funds have to last because she does not know how long she will live.

The obvious remedy is to purchase an annuity, but she will have great difficulty finding an investment adviser who will support that decision. Many are hostile to annuities, and none offer a service package that integrates the management of financial assets with annuities.

Another post-retirement weakness: Unmanaged home equity

Another weakness of 401(k)-based plans applies to retirees who have a significant part of their wealth in their homes. The conversion of home equity into spendable funds using a HECM reverse mortgage is ad hoc and separated from the other elements of retirement planning. The retiree has to do it on her own, just as she must purchase an annuity on her own.

To deal with the two

post-retirement weaknesses identified above, I am involved in a project to integrate financial asset management, annuity purchase, and the HECM reverse mortgage into a coherent retirement plan. It is called the Retirement Income Stabilizer or RIS. Stay tuned.

Jack Guttentag is professor emeritus of finance at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Comments and questions can be left at mtgprofessor.com.



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<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">ANITA ZAHN: 863-840-1420 anitazahn@gmail.com</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">ANDREA CRANMER: 863-451-6400 acranmerrealtor@gmail.com</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">DIANA WILLIAMS: 863-386-0303 dwilliams90@htn.net</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">DANA OLSON: 863-451-1775 dolsonrealtor@gmail.com RENTAL SPECIALIST</p>
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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4212 LOQUAT RD, SEBRING</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Well maintained 2BR, 2BA, 2 CG w/room to park an RV! Open floor plan, kitchen features wood cabinets, & an Island. LR & DR have vaulted ceiling w/plant shelves. Original patio has been enclosed for additional living space, not under air put easily can be. Large screened in patio. MLS#260327</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Anita Zahn: 863-840-1420 anitazahn@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">122 ROSEMARY AVE., SEBRING</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Cute 3BR, 1.5BA home minutes from Lake Josephine public boat ramp is a must see for investors, Seasonal & first time home buyers. Solid concrete block construction, large Galley style kitchen and in house utility room. Conveniently located between Lake Placid and Sebring. MLS# 245228 \$83,900</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Andrea Cranmer: 863-451-6400 acranmerrealtor@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">122 PARKVIEW DRIVE, LAKE PLACID</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Quaint 2BR, 2BA home w/expansive outdoor living. 7 sets of French doors to view lake front on Lake Grassy. Open concept living. Huge MBA & dressing area. MLS#245080 \$1200.00/mo.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Diana Williams: 863-386-0303 dwilliams90@htn.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">502 CHELSEA WAY, LAKE PLACID</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">This resort style 3BR, 2BA is located right off US 27. Community pool, club house & lake views!!! Lanai has been closed in & opened to living room for even more space. Master has a wall of built ins. Full size stack washer and dryer included. You will want to check this ONE out!!! MLS#243591 \$1100/mo.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Dana Olson: 863-451-1775 dolsonrealtor@gmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">128 MCCOY DR, LAKE PLACID</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Not FHA or VA finance-able. Foreclosure Case #093-443166. HUD owned & sold as-is. Resources, forms, and bidding link to www.HUDHomeStore.com. Forms at www.SageACQ.com. Brokers must be registered & have active HUD NAID to submit bids. Subject to a new FHA appraisal at buyers expense. Property is FHA un-surable (U). Equal Housing Opportunity. MLS#258676</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Anita Zahn: 863-840-1420 anitazahn@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">6315 COLUMBUS BLVD, SEBRING</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">3BR, 2BA in a Great neighborhood, situated on almost half an acre. New Roof in 2018 & New A/C. Home offers open floor plan w/large master suite, walk in closet, living room, dining area & open kitchen perfect for entertaining family & friends. In addition to the 2 car attached garage w/ separate golf cart garage. Also a 24x24 detached garage w/electric and lighting. MLS#249076 \$224,900</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Andrea Cranmer: 863-451-6400 acranmerrealtor@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">1539 CHATSWORTH ST, LAKE PLACID</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Comfy turnkey fully furnished 2BR, 1.5BA, 1 Car Garage home which is perfect for your Winter Retreat! Blocks from Lake Clay boat ramp. Fully fenced for your pet! MLS#250175 \$1650 seasonal/\$1075 annual</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Diana Williams: 863-386-0303 dwilliams90@htn.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">636 LAKE GROVES RD NW, LAKE PLACID</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">2BR, 2BA, fenced yard and fruit trees. Eat in kitchen washer, dryer hook ups all tile floors. MLS#244852 \$1050/mo.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Dana Olson: 863-451-1775 dolsonrealtor@gmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">1544 CHURCHILL ST, LAKE PLACID</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Features 2BR, 2BA, large living room w/vaulted ceiling, cozy gas fire place. Freshly painted living room. Dining. Kitchen and bedroom. Kitchen has plenty of storage, work space w/gas stove. Master bedroom has large walk in closet & nice view of the back yard. Split bedroom plan. Deck with sea wall and deck area on first canal to Lake Clay. MLS#248150 \$136,000</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Anita Zahn: 863-840-1420 anitazahn@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">3055 SCENIC HWY, SEBRING</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Open floor plan w/3BR, 2.5BA, Chef's dream gourmet kitchen w/high end appliances, gas stove, solid surface counter tops, large Pantry w/ tons of storage throughout. Elegant master suite w/his/hers walk in closet, large walk-in shower, bath, double vanity and French doors that lead to one of the two giant back patios. Laundry rm w/built-ins, sink leads to a half bath. This home is a Must See! MLS#248409 \$299,900</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Andrea Cranmer: 863-451-6400 acranmerrealtor@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">119 MURRAY CT., NW LAKE PLACID</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Large 3BR, 2BA, 2 Car Garage. Open concept in a great area! High ceilings, new flooring, new appliances & roof! Golf course out your back lanai. MLS#243866 \$1450/MO</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Diana Williams: 863-386-0303 dwilliams90@htn.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">1828 W DINNER LAKE, SEBRING</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Florida living right on the water! 3BR, 3BA w/pool, great lake view, furnished and ready for a family. (can be rented seasonally or short term. (other rates apply)) Large LR w/ brick fire place. Game room w/pool table, view of the lake. Enclosed sun-room with view of the water the length of the home. MLS#260245 \$1800/Mo</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Contact: Dana Olson: 863-451-1775 dolsonrealtor@gmail.com</p>

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HOMES FOR SALE 1020



Placid Lakes, Lake June Access!

Lovely 3/2 home at 904 Catfish Creek Rd. Screen porch, w/outside deck & jacuzzi; reverse osmosis & rights to boat ramp & Lake June. \$179k 863-699-6772

CONDOS/VILLAS FOR SALE 1040

COVERED BRIDGE- 2b/1.5 CBS, garage, FL rm, W/D, new roof! 55+ park, pool clubhouse across st. cable & lawn \$85/mo. \$120k. By Owner! 334-355-0332

FSBO- 2/2 2nd flr. in DeeAnn Lakefront Estates, gated comm S. of Lake Placid. Great view of Lake Grassy, low HOA fee, inclu most uti, pool, clubhouse & lake access. Furn & appli inclu. \$89k. 563-357-8896

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT 1320

Avon Park- 2/1 w/carpport, back porch & W/D hookup. \$585 plus 1st & sec. 561-719-2520

Efficiency- includes electric, water, sewer & garbage. No dogs. \$500/mo + 1st, last & sec. 800-743-2301

Sebring Lake Front Condos & Houses New kitchens; 1br starting at \$575; 2 br starting at \$700 1yr lease, NO PETS. 863-382-2221

Sebring- New Completely Remodeled lrg 1bd & 2 bd: new kit cabinets, appliances, ceramic tile. Starting at \$550/mo w/1yr lease 863-588-0303

ROOMS FOR RENT 1360

Lake Placid- Bed, bath, shower. LIKE NEW! Use of refrig, micro, etc. \$400/mo. 863-699-0049

VACATION/ SEASONAL RENTALS 1390

Winter season 2BR/1BT furnished for rent in Sebring. Electric/water/cable incl. Close to shopping. 407-969-1864.

COMMERCIAL RENTAL 1392

Liberty Star Plaza

Sebring *Liberty Star Plaza* 3000-18,000 sqft; Built out. US 27 Near SR 66. Great Medical, School, Real Estate space! 863-471-0663

HOMES FOR SALE 1020

AVON PARK LAKES-Beautiful 3/2/2 house on quiet st. \$154,900. Subject to probate. 863-443-9280

MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE 1090

2007 dblwide in gated 55+ park. Low rent, pet friendly, 3/2, Jacuzzi, walk in closet, lanai w/tinted windows and AC, front porch, shed with W/D, irrigation & well, carport with 4/car parking. \$55k. 207-576-9444

Selling Mobile Homes- \$500 in 55+ park on Dinner Lake; RV Spaces for rent also. 863-273-2874

HOMES FOR RENT 1210

Apartment & Houses for Rent in Highlands County Starting at \$450 Pet Friendly! Call Mike 863-243-9191 www.Mylakeplacid.com

CONDOS/VILLAS FOR RENT 1240

Condo on Lake Jackson 1bd/1ba in 55+ community. Newly Remodeled, no pets. \$675/mo. + 1st, last & sec. Water & Cable included! 863-605-3134

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT 1340

2bd/2ba dblwide in Sebring Renovated No pets, no smoking. \$1,500/mo + dep. References req. At least 3-6 mo lease. 574-518-0609

LOTS & ACREAGE 1500

Lake Okeechobee Lot on Canal w/seawall & dock! 110x78, Zoned for permanent structure, No RVs. Existing slab, electric & water. 2827 SE 37th Ave., Okeechobee. DRASTICALLY REDUCED! Only \$22k. 269-506-6510 or 269-476-2188

SE of Gainesville- 8 ac lakefront, high & dry, on 854 ac George's Lake. \$215k. 239-693-7270

NEED CASH?

WATERFRONT HOMES 1030

Lake Placid Waterfront Home 4/2. Lots of NEW! REDUCED! \$227k. Brantley Properties. 863-202-6325

WANTED TO BUY 1120

Lake Placid CASH for Your Home! Rapid Closing; Any Condition. Must have sufficient equity. Ken 863-441-2689

DUPLICES FOR RENT 1300

2/2 Big Duplex for Rent Sun r' Lake. Recently renovated; scrn porch; laundry rm; \$850/mo+. No pets/no smoking. 305-781-0007 or 863-381-3800

ROOMS FOR RENT 1360

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JUST REDUCED!
2/2 + den, newer Sumitron double hung windows, newer AC in 2016, New Roof in 2017. SB2215
Donald Lariviere (863)450-3340
\$114,500

PRICE JUST REDUCED!!
3/2 triple wide on perimeter lot split floor plan. Great kitchen with plenty of cabinets and separate laundry room. All windows are newer. New Roof in 2016. SB2214
Donald Lariviere (863) 450-3340
\$95,000

BEAUTIFUL HOME OUTSIDE AND INSIDE
2/2 Plus Den home provides all of the comforts. With Large AC Florida Room. New AC in 2016, New Roof in 2017, new garage door opener in 2018, new disposal in 2018 and 4 new windows in 2017. SB2315
Ray Hammond/Hammond Team (863) 450-3339
\$97,900

WELL-MAINTAINED EXECUTIVE HOME
2/2 With Den 1 1/2 Old roof, freshly painted inside, laminate flooring, Hurricane shutters and Handicap Master Bath & Downstairs. 2 Screened Patios 1 for relaxing chair time and other to enjoy the huge backyard, open concept for entertaining. SB2344
Ray Hammond/Hammond Team (863) 450-3339
\$135,000

WELL MAINTAINED WITH MULTIPLE UPGRADES
1 1/2 park model is fully furnished. The brand-new central AC has a 10 Year Warranty, the 10-month-old membrane roof has a 150 MPH Rating. The newer windows has a 150 MPH wind rating. SB2329
Larry Robinson (317) 979-1294
\$22,500

PARK MODEL PERFECT FOR A SNOWBIRD OR FULLTIME HOME
1 1/2 Has A new roof in 2017, new water heater 2017 and replumbed water lines makes this the perfect home for you. When you enter the Florida room, you find yourself in the perfect place to enjoy TV or entertain company. SB2327
Larry Robinson (317) 979-1294
\$23,000

EXQUISITE HOME IN A 5 STAR COMMUNITY
2/2 with a den or man cave, all new stainless-steel appliances, new roof in 2017, Furnished home is move in ready. Great open floor plan with plenty of natural light. SB2333
Pete Blake (702) 579-5155
\$129,900

BEAUTIFUL LIKE NEW HOME ON THE WATER
3 BR 2.5 BA. Beautiful home with water views, new paint, newer upgraded appliances, double garage, Newer Roof, newer AC, there is nothing that need to be done to this immaculate like new home. Put this home on your Must-See List. SB2331
Dennis Jager (863) 849-5379
\$87,900

BEAUTIFUL EXECUTIVE HOME IN 5 STAR PARK
2 BR Plus Den and 2 BA, well maintained home, cathedral ceilings, large kitchen with pantry, extra large master suite, loads of closet space, tiled throughout. Beautifully landscaped perimeter lot. SB2334
Dennis Jager (863) 849-5379
\$84,900

BEAUTIFUL SPACIOUS HOME WITH OPEN FLOOR PLAN
2/2 Home with an office or den. Great open floor plan for entertaining. This home offers a gourmet kitchen with pantry, center island, beautiful cabinetry, 2 Car finished garage with utility sink and shelving, many updates, Roof, AC, Appliances. SB2262
Wendy Jager (863) 812-4675
\$127,900

ELEGANT EXECUTIVE WATERFRONT
3/2 plus office. Luxurious waterfront home, best views in the park, laminate floors, cathedral ceilings, New AC June 2015, New roof May 2017 Extra wide 2 car garage, plantation shutters throughout. SB2269
Wendy Jager (863) 812-4675
\$128,900

SPACIOUS HOME HAS GREAT LOCATION
2/2 Home has full front Florida room, with wet bar, and pass through at galley kitchen, Ceramic tile flooring, carpet in bedrooms, side Florida room, extended shed, near patio, laundry room. SB2169
Amy Stone (863) 450-3336
\$25,600

IMMACULATE SPLIT BEDROOM OPEN FLOOR PLAN
2/2 split bedroom floor plan home, private lanai with AC, room addition being used as laundry sewing room. Private driveway, professionally landscaped lawn and comes with a golf cart, just bring your golf clubs. SB2289
Amy Stone (863) 450-3336
\$44,998

SPACIOUS LIGHT AND BRIGHT
2/2 has a front kitchen with cabinets, appliance cabinets and plenty of storage space. The wood laminate floors add to the charm. Indoor laundry room include an office desk area. SB2299
Kim Strasser (863) 279-3386
\$30,388

NICELY UPDATED
2/2 is being sold furnished and is move in ready. Hickory laminate flooring, front lanai perfect for relaxing or entertaining, extended carport, shed with laundry sink, washer and dryer. SB2305
Kim Strasser (863) 279-3386
\$28,000

PERFECT!!
2/2 Everything about this home is in perfect condition, just move in. Real wood floors and tile. Upscale furniture. And A Golf Cart Garage. SB2328
Reggie Maxon (863) 808-1706
\$39,455

NUMBER ONE MODEL IN TANGLEWOOD
3/2 Cottonwood large eat in kitchen, formal dining area. Large living room, Golf Cart Garage, on a n-mature corner lot, very good condition priced right. SB2345
Reggie Maxon (863) 808-1706
\$41,000

MUST SEE!
2/2 Like new Merit home, Immaculate, bright, remodeled in 2014/2015. Partially furnished, passed 2018 home inspection with flying colors. Roof and AC. New roof in 2014, new AC, over the range microwave and dishwasher in 2016. SB2325
Jack Walden (863) 279-3387
\$39,500

BEAUTIFUL HOME JUST FOR YOU!
2/2 plus Den, 1482 SQ FT home is partially furnished and ready for you to move in. With a double driveway, carport, 1 car garage, and storm shutters on the windows, slider you have it all. SB2298
Jack Walden (863) 279-3387
\$44,500

BRING YOUR BOAT!!
3/2 A half Dock for your boat on the Canal to the 1200 Acre Lake Josephine for cruising and fishing is included. The home features a split bedroom with open living space. SB2342
Donny Cox (863) 658-3955
\$49,900

HOME ON PERIMETER LOT!!
2/2 nicely furnished home with no rear neighbors awaits you. Split floor plan with front and rear bedrooms each with a full bathroom. The exterior was recently painted and central air replaced in 2015. SB2339
Donny Cox (863) 658-3955
\$18,000

The Reed - Ferry Team



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NEW LISTINGS!!

LAKE PLACID \$139,900



Situated on 3 lots with plenty of privacy, this well maintained 2 BR/2 Ba home has many updated features to enjoy starting with the front entrance gate & nicely landscaped yard with beautiful palm trees. Close to town and Lake Istokpoga - the best fishing lake around! MLS #260181

SEBRING SHORES \$138,500



What a great price for a pool home! This 4BR/1.5Ba has been updated and renovated with wood laminate flooring, cedar paneling, open floor plan and updated paint colors. Kitchen has newer appls, tiled backsplash, island and built-in bench for those family meals. MLS # 250372

GOLF HAMMOCK \$319,000



You're going to LOVE this NEW CONSTRUCTION 3 BR + ofc home! Painted a soothing shade of light gray, this home exudes elegance. Upgrades everywhere including granite, tile and wood-like vinyl flooring. The spa-like master bath is sure to impress. Pond view. MLS #250484

SEBRING HILLS \$124,500



Nice 2 BR/2BA home on a quiet street. Stucco exterior with stone accents & a brand new roof! Kitchen with SS appliances, updated light fixtures plus 8x10 eat-in area. Sliding glass doors lead to a comfortable Florida room with a view of the spacious backyard. MLS #250322

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Oxsalida joins Re/Max in Sebring

Special to Highlands News-Sun
SEBRING — Cheryl Oxsalida has joined Re/Max Realty Plus in Sebring.

After starting her Real Estate career in Miami in 2012 and then joining Heartland Real Estate Corp. in 2013, Oxsalida is now a part of Re/Max Realty Plus in Sebring. Over the last few years, Oxsalida has become one of the top selling realtors



OXSALIDA

in Highlands County, growing each year in sales both as a buyer's agent and as a listing agent with over \$8 million in sales as a single agent in 2018. Oxsalida is looking forward to joining Re/Max Realty Plus family.

Among her experience prior to becoming a realtor she worked in marketing and advertising for many years and has a degree in computer technology.

She is originally from St. Louis, Missouri and she is also a member of the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

To contact Oxsalida, call 863-214-3663 or stop by the office at 809 U.S. 27 South in Sebring.

Berkshire Hathaway acquires Heartland Real Estate Corp.

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

SEBRING — Continuing its aggressive growth plan in South Central Florida, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group has announced the acquisition of Heartland Real Estate Corp. in Sebring effective Jan. 1, 2019.

This brings the total number of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group offices to 23 and more than 650 sales executives. "This decision was not an easy one as I have close, professional relationships with the agents at HREC who all work very hard to provide exemplary services to our clients," said HREC Owner/Broker James Wohl.

"However, this opportunity to merge with Berkshire Hathaway provides our agents with additional tools and marketing strategies that a small, independent firm

cannot offer and that will ultimately benefit our clients," Wohl said.

HREC is locally owned and operated serving the Highlands and Hardee county markets for more than 20 years and is continually ranked one of the top firms in the area. The company specializes in residential, commercial and agricultural properties.

"HREC has always stood for excellence and integrity — the same values which we found to be the very foundation of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group's business philosophy," Wohl said. "The outstanding realtors, tools and resources they bring to the table combined with our comprehensive market knowledge and proven track record will enable us to better serve the clients of Highlands and Hardee counties."

In 2016, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group

acquired Mid-Florida Real Estate Sales. The firm has offices in Lakeland, Sebring and Lake Placid.

"Our ability to continue to grow while, at the same time, actively investing in both resources and people to enhance the customer experience sets us apart from other real estate companies," said Allen Crumbley, Broker/Owner, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group has 23 offices located throughout Highlands, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties. Locally owned and operated since 1959, the company offers residential, commercial, property management, relocation, home warranty, title, mortgage, and insurance services. For more information please visit the company website at bhhsfloridaproperties.com.

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NEW LISTING!!!

Looking for the Perfect Ranchette? Here is your opportunity for a 3.44 acre 3 BR, 3BA home ready for horses! Home features over 2,300 LSF and 4,200 TSF. Fireplace, upstairs master suite and more. This property is perfect for entertaining too!

OFFERED AT... \$375,000



NEW LISTING!!!

Stunning Golf Hammock Pool home located on a waterway for spectacular lake views. This home is perfect for entertaining and has over 3600 LSF. Fantastic floor plan has 3BR, office, 2.5BA 2+ CG and more! This is a must see Golf Hammock property!

OFFERED AT... \$325,000



NEW LISTING!!!

Check out this very spacious 2 bed 2 bath 2 cg villa located steps away from clubhouse + Heated pool. Situated on a corner lot in popular Orangewood Acres. Don't Delay, Call Today!

OFFERED AT... \$120,000



LOCATED IN SEBRING

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION-This property has it all! Location, Great floor plan and Affordable! One of the best properties on the market right now! 3 bed 2 bath 2 cg with workshop. All new vinyl plank flooring throughout home. WOW!!!

OFFERED AT... \$165,000



GREAT DEAL

1 acre completely fenced in home with loads of privacy, yet close to everything. Very close to racetrack! Home features 2BR, 2BA, screened in lanai. This property is ready for you to remodel and make your own!

OFFERED AT... \$150,000



CHARMING

Looking for a special property with loads of charm? Look no further. This home has a ton of Character! Located right off of Lakeview dr and next to Lake Jackson (not on lake). 4 bed 2 bath home with hardwood floors upstairs. Modern and updated downstairs. Call Dawn Dell 863-381-0400.

OFFERED AT... \$210,000



LAKE JACKSON HOME

Lake Jackson front home! Imagine having everyone over for the Holidays in your lake front home complete with real wood fireplace! This 4 bed 3.5 bath home with 3+ detached garage is ready for you. Completely remodeled recently and has an amazing kitchen! This is a must see! Call Dawn Dell 863-381-0400.

OFFERED AT... \$640,000



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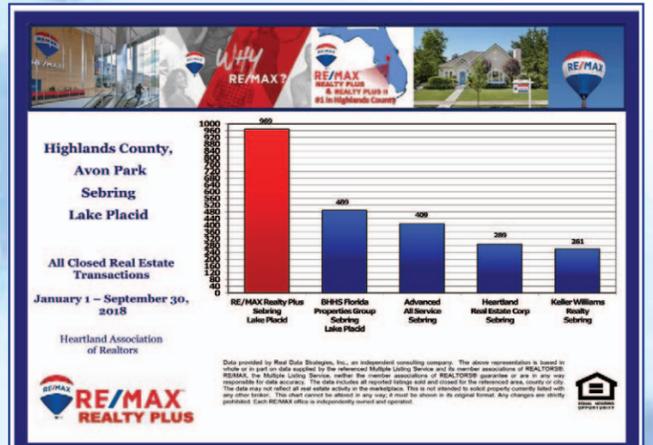
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Tampa Bay was in Edmonton late Saturday night. Due to the late start, the game did not finish by press time

Go to Yoursun.com to read the game story.

Sunday, December 23, 2018

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Report: USF set to dismiss suspended players, 4 assistants

11 players were suspended from Thursday's Gasparilla Bowl against Marshall

By JOEY KNIGHT
TAMPA BAY TIMES

Eleven USF players, including three receivers and two tailbacks, were suspended from Thursday night's Gasparilla Bowl against Marshall, the Tampa Bay Times has learned.

Additionally, as many as four Bulls assistant coaches are expected to be dismissed, a source indicated Saturday.

Bulls coach Charlie Strong didn't immediately respond to a phone message Saturday, but told Times columnist Martin Fennelly he planned a personnel house-cleaning immediately following Thursday's 38-20 loss to Marshall.

"I'm telling you right now, we're going to clean up this whole program," Strong said. "A lot of guys will be leaving. We need a good washing."

None of the players suited up for the contest, leading to widespread speculation about whether their absence from the lineup stemmed from discipline or

health reasons. The source indicated the players were suspended for unspecified violations of team rules.

Those suspended: WR Darnell Salomon, WR DeVontres Dukes, WR Deangelo Antoine, RB Elijah Mack, RB Duran Bell, DB Donelle Thomas, DB Naytron Culpepper, DT Brandon Boyce, DT Armon Williams, DL Marquies Price and OL Jeremiah Stafford.

None are likely to return in 2019, the source indicated.

Three other players — DT Kevin Bronson, WR Zion Roland and OT Eric Mayes — were sidelined by injury.

The issues with the players began following the Bulls' 57-36 loss at Houston, which started a six-game losing streak to end the season.

This purge of sorts would hardly be the first of Strong's career.

He dismissed nine Texas players early in his three-year tenure with the



TAMPA BAY TIMES PHOTO

USF | 4 USF football coach Charlie Strong has planned a personnel house-cleaning according to the Tampa Bay Times. Strong suspended 11 players before Thursday's Gasparilla Bowl against Marshall.

PREP SPORTS

1,000 points and counting

Imagine's Katie Klein overcomes injury, earns milestone



SUN PHOTO BY TIM KERN

Imagine School of North Port junior shooting guard Katie Klein reached her 1,000th point on Dec. 14 against St. Stephens.

By Jacob Hoag
STAFF WRITER

The game wore on as usual with standout shooting guard Katie Klein leading the Lady Sharks in scoring against St. Stephens on Dec. 14.

She knew she was close to the 1,000-point milestone, but had no clue when she would surpass it. But her mom did.

Sitting in the crowd, counting down, Klein's mother sneakily walked over to the boys team in the bleachers and told them to be loud when Klein scored her next points.

Moments later the junior drove to the net, flashed some style on a reverse layup and accomplished a feat she had worked toward since she was a sixth grader.

"It was huge," Klein said. "They wanted me to just play my game and not worry about trying to get the points I needed. When I got the basket they stopped the game and everyone was cheering. It was pretty cool."

The game was stopped as the crowd and team acknowledged the career mark and Klein soaked every bit of it in. Four and a half season's of dedication was validated with one momentous basket.

Klein has always been a competitor. At the Imagine School of North Port, a K-12 school, players are able to play varsity sports prior to the 9th grade.

When she was in 7th grade she became a starter for the

KLEIN | 3

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Players skip bowls, put coaches' bonuses at risk

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

Dana Holgorsen can earn a \$25,000 bonus if West Virginia beats Syracuse next week in the Camping World Bowl, a game the Mountaineers will play without star quarterback Will Grier and left tackle Yodny Cajuste.

Dave Doeren's contract with North

Carolina State calls for him to receive a \$50,000 bonus if the Wolfpack beat Texas A&M in the Gator Bowl. N.C. State's best players on either side of the ball (receiver Kelvin Harmon and linebacker Germaine Pratt) will not play.

Grier and Cajuste, Harmon and Pratt are part of a growing

BOWLS | 4



AP PHOTO

West Virginia head coach Dana Holgorsen can earn a \$50,000 bonus if West Virginia beats Syracuse next week in the Camping World Bowl, a game the Mountaineers will play without star quarterback Will Grier and left tackle Yodny Cajuste.

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■ PICK 2

Dec. 22N.....	x-x
Dec. 22D.....	4-0
Dec. 21N.....	4-9
Dec. 21D.....	8-7
Dec. 20N.....	2-0
Dec. 20D.....	7-0
D-Day, N-Night	

■ PICK 3

Dec. 22N.....	x-x-x
Dec. 22D.....	5-0-9
Dec. 21N.....	4-8-7
Dec. 21D.....	7-4-2
Dec. 20N.....	6-4-9
Dec. 20D.....	0-2-8
D-Day, N-Night	

■ PICK 4

Dec. 22N.....	x-x-x-x
Dec. 22D.....	5-0-1-4
Dec. 21N.....	7-4-0-8
Dec. 21D.....	6-3-3-0
Dec. 20N.....	3-3-5-8
Dec. 20D.....	8-3-0-0
D-Day, N-Night	

■ PICK 5

Dec. 22N.....	x-x-x-x-x
Dec. 22D.....	7-4-7-4-4
Dec. 21N.....	8-2-1-6-4
Dec. 21D.....	3-4-3-6-0
Dec. 20N.....	4-5-7-7-9
Dec. 20D.....	5-9-4-0-8
D-Day, N-Night	

■ FANTASY 5

Dec. 22.....	Late
Dec. 21.....	6-9-11-16-30
Dec. 20.....	10-16-23-29-30
PAYOFF FOR DEC. 20	
2 5-digit winners.....	\$107,218.30
413 4-digit winners.....	\$555
11,453-digit winners.....	\$8

■ CASH FOR LIFE

Dec. 20.....	4-29-30-40-47
Cash Ball.....	4
...	
Dec. 17.....	9-19-21-44-50
Cash Ball.....	1
PAYOFF FOR DEC. 20	
0 5-5 CB.....	\$1,000/Day
0 5-5.....	\$1,000/Week
5 4-5 CB.....	\$2,500
6 4-5.....	\$500

■ LUCKY MONEY

Dec. 21.....	9-37-39-43
Lucky Ball.....	17
...	
Dec. 18.....	4-10-21-30
Lucky Ball.....	3
PAYOFF FOR DEC. 21	
0 4-of-4 LB.....	\$500,000
1 4-of-4.....	\$4,509
29 3-of-4 LB.....	\$340.50
477 3-of-4.....	\$61.00

■ LOTTO

Dec. 19.....	5-10-13-25-26-34
Dec. 15.....	1-10-16-31-36-39
Dec. 12.....	2-9-25-28-32-43
PAYOFF FOR DEC. 19	
0 6-digit winners.....	\$4 million
23 5-digit winners.....	\$3,284.50
1,051 4-digit winners.....	\$56
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	
	\$4.5 million

■ POWERBALL

Dec. 22.....	Late
Powerball.....	Late
...	
Dec. 19.....	15-29-31-37-43
Powerball.....	16
PAYOFF FOR DEC. 19	
0 5-5 + PB.....	\$262 million
0 5-5.....	\$1 million
2 4-5 + PB.....	\$50,000
30 4-5.....	\$100
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	
	\$281 million

■ MEGA MILLIONS

Dec. 21.....	10-13-61-62-70
Mega Ball.....	5
...	
Dec. 18.....	13-22-32-60-69
Mega Ball.....	9
PAYOFF FOR DEC. 21	
0 5 of 5 + MB.....	\$305 million
0 5 of 5.....	\$1 million
0 4 of 5 + MB.....	\$10,000
18 4 of 5.....	\$500
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	
	\$321 million

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■ MEN'S BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

No. 11 FSU shoots 55 percent to beat Saint Louis

By **STEVEN WINE**
 AP SPORTS WRITER

SUNRISE — From Mfiondu Kabengele's no-look off-the-glass basket to Terance Mann's double dunk in the final seconds, Florida State shot at a high rate.

The 11th-ranked Seminoles made a season-best 55 percent, including 10 of 18 from 3-point range, and beat Saint Louis 81-59 Saturday in the one-day Orange Bowl Classic. "These are shots we've been getting all season," said guard David Nichols, who scored a season-high 19 points. "Sometimes they fall; sometimes they don't."

The Seminoles (11-1) won their sixth game in a row and matched the best 12-game start in school history.

"They're a Final Four team," Saint Louis coach Travis Ford said. "They've got a chance to go as far as they want."

Kabengele had the play of the game when he scored on a twisting drive that ended with a one-handed flip off the backboard. Mann scored 17 points, including a pair of dunks in the final 30 seconds that drew the biggest response from the crowd.

"That was for the fans," Nichols said. "He got everybody excited."

NO. 3 TENNESSEE 83, WAKE FOREST 64

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Grant Williams had 22 points and 10 rebounds

as No. 3 Tennessee trounced Wake Forest 83-64 on Saturday for its sixth consecutive victory.

Kyle Alexander scored a career-high 19 points and had eight rebounds to help Tennessee (10-1) extend its home winning streak to 15 games. The Volunteers haven't lost at Thompson-Boling Arena since last season, falling 94-84 to Auburn on Jan. 2.

Chaundee Brown scored 19 points and Brandon Childress added 14 for Wake Forest (6-4). Jordan Bone had 18 points and Admiral Schofield scored 12 for Tennessee.

NO. 5 VIRGINIA 72, WILLIAM & MARY 40

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — De'Andre Hunter scored 18 points, Kyle Guy had 16 and Virginia pulled away after halftime and beat William & Mary.

The Tribe (4-8) used a 14-3 run spanning a 17-point deficit to 34-28 early in the second half, but Mamadi Diakite's basket sparked a 17-2 run that put Virginia (11-0) in command again. Guy had nine points in the run, including the last six.

Nathan Knight scored 22 points for William & Mary before fouling out.

NO. 15 OHIO STATE 80, UCLA 66

CHICAGO — C.J. Jackson scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half, and Ohio State handed UCLA its third



AP PHOTO

Florida State forward Phil Cofer eludes Saint Louis forward D.J. Foreman in the first half, part of the Orange Bowl Classic tournament Saturday in Sunrise, Fla.

consecutive loss.

Kaleb Wesson had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Buckeyes (11-1), who have won five in a row since its only loss of the season last month against Syracuse. Ohio State got its second win at the United Center this season in the opener of the CBS Sports Classic.

Kris Wilkes had 18 points and seven rebounds for UCLA (7-5), which was coming off consecutive losses to Belmont and Cincinnati.

NO. 16 WISCONSIN 84, GRAMBLING STATE 53

MADISON, Wis. — Ethan Happ scored 19 points and grabbed his 1,000th career rebound,

sending Wisconsin past Grambling State.

Happ finished with eight rebounds for Wisconsin (10-2). He is the 15th player in Big Ten history to reach 1,000 rebounds.

D'Mitrik Trice scored 14 points for the Badgers. Dallas Polk-Hilliard had 17 points and 10 rebounds to lead Grambling State (6-7).

NO. 23 IOWA 110, SAVANNAH STATE 64

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Joe Wieskamp scored a career-high 24 points, Jordan Bohannon had 18 on six 3s and Iowa blew past Savannah State for its fourth straight victory. Tyler Cook scored 16

points in 17 minutes for the Hawkeyes (10-2).

Zach Sellers had 18 points for Savannah State (3-11), which has lost seven in a row.

NO. 25 NEBRASKA 86, CAL STATE FULLERTON 62

LINCOLN, Neb. — James Palmer Jr. scored 23 points and Nebraska took control midway through the first half to defeat Cal State Fullerton.

Nebraska (10-2) won its 18th straight home game, a streak dating to last season. Isaiah Roby had 20 points for the Cornhuskers.

Kyle Allman Jr. had 14 of his 16 points in the second half to lead Cal State Fullerton (3-9).

■ NBA: Clippers 132, Nuggets 111

Clippers hand Nuggets worst defeat of season

By **STEVE DILBECK**
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The Denver Nuggets have hit a few bumps en route to the Western Conference's best record.

SPORTS ON TV

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL	
4:30 p.m.	ESPN2 — Diamond Head Classic, semifinal, TBD
7 p.m.	ESPN — Diamond Head Classic, consolation game, TBD
7:30 p.m.	FS1 — Las Vegas Classic, championship, TBD
10 p.m.	ESPN2 — Diamond Head Classic, semifinal, TBD
FS1	— Las Vegas Classic, consolation game, TBD
12:30 a.m. (Monday)	ESPN — Diamond Head Classic, consolation game, TBD
NFL	
1 p.m.	CBS — Regional Coverage FOX — Regional Coverage
4:05 p.m.	FOX — Regional Coverage
4:25 p.m.	CBS — Pittsburgh at New Orleans
8:20 p.m.	NBC — Kansas City at Seattle
NHL	
7 p.m.	NHL — Philadelphia at New York
RUGBY	
2 p.m.	NBCSN — Premiership, Wasps vs. Bath
SKIING	
2:30 p.m.	NBC — FIS Alpine World Cup, women's slalom and giant slalom, France
SOCCER	
9:30 a.m.	FS1 — Bundesliga, FC Augsburg vs. VfL Wolfsburg
10:55 a.m.	NBCSN — Premier League, Everton vs. Tottenham
12 p.m.	FS1 — Bundesliga, TSG 1899 Hoffenheim vs. Mainz 05

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Just not like this. Danilo Gallinari and Tobias Harris each scored 21 points, Montrezl Harrell added 20 and the Los Angeles Clippers beat Denver 132-111 on Saturday for the Nuggets' worst loss of the season.

The Nuggets (21-10) had not lost by more than 10 points and had won four straight. "That was a tough one," Nuggets forward Monte Morris said. "The Clippers just wanted it a little bit more."

That was most obvious in the paint, where the

hard-driving Clippers outscored the Nuggets 80-50.

"Eighty points is not a number I'm used to seeing on a stat sheet," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "That's just them beating us off the dribble. That's them rebounding every missed shot. That's them outworking us and (us) not being ready to compete at the level we needed to compete tonight."

The Clippers shot 57.6 percent from the field.

"I thought our tempo

set the tone," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said.

"Our pace tonight (was) maybe as good as I've seen. I mean, we never stopped it. Just continued movement and pacing. I thought we did it throughout the game."

The Clippers went on a 15-4 run in the middle of the first quarter, but their cause was aided when Denver's leading scorer, Nikola Jokic, was ejected. He led the Nuggets with 19 points despite playing only 20 minutes.

The Clippers led by 11 when the 7-foot Jokic

was ejected in the third quarter for screaming at an official for the second time. Malone said he wasn't sure what Jokic had yelled to draw the ejection.

"You'd have to ask him," Malone said. Jokic did not make himself available to reporters after the game.

After losing four consecutive games, the Clippers have won two straight.

"Our throw-out (ejection) defense is phenomenal," Rivers quipped. "That was part of our gameplan."

■ NHL ROUNDUP

Panthers, behind Luongo's 33 saves, beat Red Wings 2-1

DETROIT (AP) — With the top two lines taking the lead, the Florida Panthers found a style of play that suits them Saturday.

Roberto Luongo made 33 saves, Mike Hoffman and Evgenii Dadonov each scored and the Panthers beat the Detroit Red Wings 2-1.

Hoffman, Dadonov, leading scorer Jonathan Huberdeau and captain Aleksander Barkov helped Florida play more aggressively through center ice and generate offensive chances. Huberdeau and Barkov each had two assists. It was Huberdeau's 11th multipoint game in his last 14 — he has five goals and 25 points in that span — and Barkov has seven points in his past four games.

BOSTON 5, NASHVILLE 2

Patrice Bergeron scored two goals to reach 300 for his career, returning to the lineup Saturday after missing 16 games and leading the Boston Bruins past the Nashville Predators 5-2.

He also set up Brad Marchand's tie-breaking score to help send Boston to its sixth win in eight games.

David Pastrnak had his team-leading 23rd goal and added two assists. Marchand had two assists and defenseman Charlie McAvoy set up Bergeron's first goal.

Making his third straight start for the Bruins, Jaroslav Halak stopped 28 shots and assisted on Sean Kuraly's empty-netter.

L.A. KINGS 3, SAN JOSE 2 (OT)

Ilya Kovalchuk scored in overtime in his return from an ankle injury to lift the Los Angeles Kings over the San Jose Sharks 3-2 on Saturday.

Kovalchuk also scored in the first period, and Alex Iafallo had a goal and an assist. Kovalchuk had missed 10 games after having an ankle bursectomy. Jonathan Quick made 29 saves.

Joe Pavelski scored a tying goal with 30 seconds left in the third period. Martin Jones stopped

28 shots for San Jose, and Lukas Radil also scored.

MONTREAL 4, VEGAS 3

LAS VEGAS — Phillip Danault completed a hat trick late in the third period, Paul Byron scored in overtime and the Montreal Canadiens beat the Vegas Golden Knights 4-3 on Saturday.

Danault entered the game with two goals this season. His third score of the game came with 1:25 left in the third period, setting up Byron's backhand goal 1:59 into OT.

COLUMBUS 4, PHILADELPHIA 3

PHILADELPHIA — Cam Atkinson scored two goals and Artemi Panarin had a goal and two assists to lead the Columbus Blue Jackets to a 4-3 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday.

Zach Werenski also scored and Pierre-Luc Dubois added three assists for the Blue Jackets, who have won three straight.

■ PREP WRESTLING

North Port edges Lemon Bay after scoring glitch

By JACOB HOAG

STAFF WRITER

It originally appeared as though with one match remaining, a point and a half separated Lemon Bay and North Port for the Bobcat Christmas Classic trophy.

The perceived final bout pit Lemon Bay's Derick Dagg against North Port's Quinn Wright in the 138-pound weight class with the winner taking the top spot.

After a tight match, Dagg got a pin in the third period, giving Lemon Bay six team points and what they thought was a 207-199.5 win. But a North Port wrestler's points got lost in the shuffle. With a revised score of 215.5-207, North Port sealed a tournament win on its home mats.

Port Charlotte High and The Imagine School of North Port also wrestled and finished eighth and 10th respectively.

North Port dominated the lower weights with wins from Gannon Wertz (113), Bryant McLellan (120), Raegan McDonald (126), Tyler Eastes (132) and Tavis Bell (145).

Taking the top spot in their weight classes for Lemon Bay were Dagg (138, 5-0, 5 pins), Lance

Schyck (152, 5-0, 5 pins), Tyson Davids (170, 5-0, 5 pins) and Brock LaVallee (220, 5-0). Schyck, a freshman, earned his first high school tournament win.

Also performing well for the Mantas were Marshall Locke (160), Bryce Taranto (113), Luke Heffner (145) and Kyle Dragon (285) finished second.

"Really proud of our team," Lemon Bay head coach Mike Schyck said. "Our new guys needed to get some wins under their belts this year and many were able to do that today. Our experienced wrestlers showed their consistency, and got their wins."

Imagine got a podium finish from Nick At, who defeated Mat Monahan of Lakewood Ranch in the third-place match of the 145-pound weight class.

Top finishers for Port Charlotte were Wesley Dzwonek (152, 4th place), Zach Adkinson (138, 5th place), Aiden Gray (195, 5th place) and Okten Logue (220, 5th place).

Email Jacob Hoag at Jhoag@sun-herald.com and follow him on Twitter @ByJacobHoag.



SUN PHOTO BY TOM O'NEILL

North Port wrestler Tavis Bell, top, defeats Port Charlotte wrestler Calvin Marshall in the 145-pound weight class during the Bobcat Christmas Classic Wrestling Tournament.

■ PREP FOOTBALL

Wolff signs with Monarchs, sets eyes on records

By VINNIE PORTELL

SPORTS EDITOR



SUN PHOTO BY VINNIE PORTELL

Hayden Wolff chose to hold his signing ceremony at awards night for the Venice football team, committing to Old Dominion in front of friends, family and coaches at Venice High School. Wolff wants to pass the single-season passing records set at Old Dominion by current NFL quarterback Taylor Heinicke in 2012. Wolff is the 31st ranked pro-style quarterback according to 247Sports.

VENICE — Hayden Wolff knows what he wants out of his time in college.

Taped to a wall in his bedroom are the records that the Venice High senior wants to break when he goes off to Old Dominion next month — 5,076 yards and 44 touchdown passes, the single-season records set by current NFL quarterback Taylor Heinicke back with the Monarchs in 2012.

Wolff, who transferred to Venice from Lemon Bay High, took his first official step toward putting his name in the ODU record books when he signed his National Letter of Intent to play for the Monarchs on Wednesday at awards night for the Venice football team.

But Wolff has stared at the records for so long, he no longer needs to study them.

"5,076 passing yards and 44 touchdowns," he rattles off as if it's as natural to him as his height and weight. "That's one of my personal goals by the time I graduate. It's a big goal, I know that, but it's something I'm gonna work hard to reach."

For the 6-foot-5, 215-pound quarterback, the decision to commit to ODU over 14 other offers — including Kentucky — was one that didn't take a whole lot of convincing. The Monarchs, which run an air-raid spread offense,

were a perfect fit for the 31st ranked pro-style quarterback in the nation by 247Sports.

"They want to throw the ball 40-50 times a game," Wolff said. "That's rare to find. For example, their quarterback threw for like 500 yards when Old Dominion beat Virginia Tech when they were ranked 10th in the country. They want to throw the ball around, and that's why they recruited me. So, I'm excited to get working with them."

Aside from the Monarchs' offensive scheme and the city of Norfolk, another selling point for Wolff was his chance to play right away.

Ranked as the second-best recruit in ODU history according to SB Nation, Wolff will have a chance to compete for the starting job as soon as he steps foot on campus.

"It's gonna be a great opportunity to go in and get some playing time early," he said. "I knew that when I committed. I could have gone to a bigger school like Kentucky and maybe sat for a year or two before having a chance to compete. But I chose Old Dominion because I knew they always believed in me and I'll have a chance to play soon."

"I'm really excited for it all. I've grown up in two small towns — Venice and Englewood — and I'm ready to leave and start my next journey."

KLEIN

FROM PAGE 1

Lady Sharks. When they played other area schools such as Port Charlotte, Lemon Bay or North Port, she was often the youngest player on the court.

But that meant very little to her. Once she got over the intimidation of the age difference, she held her own.

"It was very intimidating because you're playing against mostly juniors and seniors," Klein said. "Luckily I was able to start sooner and get into the rhythm of playing varsity. I'm very thankful for that."

Klein's progression was natural even in the younger years. She's played with the East Coast United travel ball team where the competition is elevated and she's learned the intricacies of the sport.

She's never been a timid player; rather a relaxed player known to dance at practice and have a good time when things aren't serious.

Her play style embodies aggressive drives and cuts to the basket. The big difference from the young player thrown into the varsity fire to the poised scorer seen today, Andrade said, is her ability to elevate the play of those around her.

"Katie's always been a scorer," Imagine coach Kevin Andrade said. "So she developed a little bit faster than some of her teammates. So they always leaned on her for the points. It's nice this year to see her stepping back into more of a leadership role and getting her teammates involved with assisting."

But her path to 1,000 was far from smooth.

Coming into her third year with an abundance of

confidence, suddenly she was off the court for an extended period, wiping out all but two games of her freshman season.

Klein had been playing with a fractured femur for two years after being misdiagnosed with patellar tendonitis. With parts of the bone now dead due to the length of the injury, surgeons had to drill holes to draw blood back into the area and then pinned the piece of bone back in.

For six months, basketball was gone in a sense. A sport she worked to perfect nearly year round was stripped away.

"Six months of absolutely nothing," Klein said. "My leg was straight for six months, I had to get my rotation back of just bending my leg. It was very hard for me to not be a part of things."

It didn't take long for Klein to regain her confidence and smooth stroke for the Lady Sharks. Now she's back to the high-scoring, aggressive player that she was before.

"It's just her mentality to know that when we need points, she can get them," teammate Isabella Faulkner said.

1,000 points is a massive accomplishment for Klein, she acknowledges that. But it's now in the past and she has her sights set on a the program's first district title. After that? Back-to-back titles. From there it's a wait-and-see process.

"After my senior year, my aspirations are obviously college," Klein said. "If I get the chance to play in college, that's a big dream of mine. We'll see what happens."

Email Jacob Hoag at Jhoag@sun-herald.com and follow him on Twitter @ByJacobHoag.



SUN PHOTO BY TIM KERN

Imagine's Katie Klein steals the ball in a preseason game for the Lady Sharks.

■ OLYMPICS

Eyeing 2024, gymnastics moves on parkour

Custody battle ensues for street sport that has spread globally from suburbs of Paris



AP PHOTO

Parkour co-founder Chau Belle trains in a park in Paris on Thursday. Belle was one of nine co-founders of the street sport born in the suburbs of Paris in the 1990s. Parkour is involved in a custody battle now with gymnastics, whose leaders are trying to take the sport under their wing.

By **JOHN LEICESTER**
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

PARIS — Their test of skill and courage was as dangerous

as it was effective: Having clambered as stylishly as they could to the summit of a jagged, pyramid-shaped climbing wall in the suburbs of Paris, the

young men would hang each other upside down by the feet from the top.

One slip and the four-story drop could have killed them.

Chau Belle flashes a grin at the memory of those heady days in the 1990s, when he and his gang of friends and cousins pushed each other and pushed the envelope of what has since mushroomed into a globalized street sport of urban acrobatics known as parkour. The sport is talked about as a possible new Olympic discipline but is also the focus of a heated custody battle as its popularity and marketing potential grow.

Parkour, derived from the French word for path or journey, was still just an exploration of self and of manhood when Belle and his friends were dangling each other off the 17-meter-tall (55 feet) Dame du Lac, with its view over Paris' southern outskirts.

"It was a form of courage. A bit crazy, too. You really had to trust the person who held you," the 41-year-old recalls. "It was a test. A test of self-belief. Of one's friends. Of family. Of ourselves, too."

Parkour was built around the simple philosophy that almost any terrain can, with imagination and training, be turned into a playground for running, jumping, climbing and pushing

oneself.

Male practitioners call themselves traceurs; women are traceuses. Both translate as pathfinder. They regard urban furniture — stairwells, walls, pillars, tables, benches, trees, bridges, — not as obstacles but as opportunities.

A milestone in parkour's growth was injecting the adrenaline jolt into Daniel Craig's opening scenes as James Bond, with the actor haring through a construction site in "Casino Royale" in pursuit of a terrorist with Spiderman skills.

Foucan was one of the founding practitioners of parkour, along with Belle and a half-dozen others. Calling themselves "the Yamakasi" and the sport they were inventing "the art of movement," they pieced together their new moves on, around and over the street furniture of Paris.

A child of the internet age, parkour spread globally in part because its practitioners' derring-do videos of gravity-defying flips, jumps and other exploits work in any language and readily generate social media clicks and followers.

But the sport's coming of age has attracted a powerful suitor, one unwelcomed by many in parkour: gymnastics.

Using its financial muscle and clout within the Olympic

movement, the Federation Internationale de Gymnastique is steadily bringing parkour under its wing. This month, a FIG Congress officially recognized parkour as gymnastics' newest discipline. FIG is now organizing introduction-to-parkour coaching courses, scheduling its first world championships for parkour in 2020 and intends to lobby the International Olympic Committee for parkour's inclusion in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

"This is the equivalent of a hostile takeover," says Eugene Minogue, chief executive of Parkour Earth, the grouping formed in 2017 from six national associations that is one of FIG's vocal critics. Minogue suspects FIG of wanting to appeal to 21st century audiences and sponsors.

Cycling, for example, absorbed BMX in the 1990s and skiing became the international federation for snowboarding.

"They want to codify it, they want to monetize it," Minogue says of FIG.

Another concern is that FIG-organized competitions could denature parkour's "let's play" philosophy and endanger parkour athletes by encouraging them to try overly dangerous, crowd- and judge-pleasing tricks.

■ SOCCER

Real Madrid tops Al Ain to win Club World Cup

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Luka Modric scored one goal and set up another in leading Real Madrid to the Club World Cup title by easing past host side Al Ain 4-1 on Saturday.

Ballon d'Or winner Modric struck from long range in the 14th minute after a promising start by the underdog Al Ain. He then placed a corner kick for Sergio Ramos to put the result beyond doubt at 3-0 in the 79th.

Midfielder Marcos Llorente also scored from outside the area for Madrid's second goal to help the European champions claim a record-extending seventh world title.

Madrid, which has won the last three Champions Leagues, has also won the last three Club World Cups.

"It's been an unforgettable year for me," said Modric, who led Croatia to the World Cup final in July. "It's been perfect. We won the Champions

League, I had a spectacular World Cup with Croatia, and now I have won another title with Madrid. It's been a dream year."

Al Ain reached the final after proving to be the surprise of the short tournament. The local club from the United Arab Emirates upset South American champion River Plate in the semifinals on penalties.

Shortly after a deflected pass by Llorente hit the post in the third minute, Al Ain put a scare into Madrid with two chances from Hussein El Shahat.

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois had to rush out to impede him from getting a great scoring chance from close range. Then, a mistake by Marcelo left El Sahat alone to round Courtois, only for Ramos to hustle back and block his shot on the line.

Modric put Madrid in charge a minute later when he curled an unstoppable left-footed



AP PHOTO

Real Madrid's defender Sergio Ramos celebrates after scoring during the Club World Cup final between Real Madrid and Al Ain at Zayed Sport City in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Ramos scored off a corner kick by Luka Modric, who also scored.

BOWLS

FROM PAGE 1B

trend in college football. At least 20 players are planning to skip their teams' bowl games to focus instead on getting ready for the NFL and avoid injuries. The importance of non-playoff postseason games depends on who you ask and changes from player to player and team to team. But for many coaches, winning a bowl game has a set value.

Six coaches who have players sitting out bowl games this year have nearly \$400,000 in total bonuses at stake in those games.

Arizona State's Herm Edwards would have earned the largest bonus in the group, \$166,667 for winning the Las Vegas Bowl against Fresno State last week. The Sun Devils lost 31-20, playing without star receiver N'Keal Harry.

The junior is a possible first-round draft pick who led the team with 73 catches

for 1,088 yards and nine touchdowns.

Like Doeren, Minnesota coach PJ Fleck and Memphis coach Mike Norvell can each earn \$50,000 bonuses for winning their bowl games.

Fleck's Gophers face Georgia Tech in the Quick Lane Bowl on Dec. 26 on Detroit without linebacker Blake Cashman, the team's leading tackler, and offensive tackle Donnell Greene.

Norvell's Tigers play Wake Forest in the Birmingham Bowl on Saturday without All-America running back Darrell Henderson.

Houston coach Major Applewhite would earn a \$25,000 bonus if the Cougars can beat Army in the Armed Forces Bowl on Saturday in Fort Worth, Texas.

Houston won't have star defensive tackle Ed Oliver, who missed four games this season with a knee injury and decided after the regular-season finale that it would be best for him to skip the bowl.

Bob Lattinville, a St. Louis

attorney who specializes in sports law with the firm Spencer Fane, provided the contract information to The Associated Press.

The bonuses for winning bowls in most cases are tiny compared with the coaches' yearly salaries, ranging in this group from Hulgorsen's \$3.6 million to Applewhite's \$1.75 million.

They also receive bonuses for just making a bowl.

Lattinville said bonuses for bowl wins should generally be avoided by coaches and universities.

They can be redundant to other contract bonuses and schools sometimes barely break even financially when they participate in lower-tier bowls.

"Consequently, both parties are usually better off saving their negotiation gun powder for economic provisions that better marry their long-term interests and don't create the impression of wasting money or calling into question their motivations for encouraging a

player to play in a given bowl," Lattinville said.

Coaches frequently receive bonuses just for reaching a bowl, not on the result.

That's the case with Michigan's Jim Harbaugh. The Wolverines will be without three key players when they face Florida on the Peach Bowl on Dec. 29.

Running back Karan Higdon announced Thursday in an Instagram post that he would not play, joining defensive end Rashan Gary and linebacker Devin Bush, who said he had not been cleared by doctors after injuring his hip in the regular-season finale against Ohio State.

Harbaugh's contract provides a \$200,000 bonus for the team playing in a New Year's Six game — such as the Peach Bowl — that is not a College Football Playoff semifinal, but nothing more for winning it.

He would get a \$500,000 bonus for winning the College Football Playoff national championship.

USE

FROM PAGE 4

Longhorns, and got rid of three Bulls players — who had been arrested on various charges — before coaching his first game at USEF.

Four of the suspended players (Salomon, Dukes, Mack and Antoine) were recruited by Willie Taggart. Boyce and Price transferred from Duke following the 2016 season.

Toss in fourth-year junior QB Brett Kean's announcement that he intends to transfer from the program (in good standing), and the Bulls suddenly possess considerable scholarship space.

USEF signed 19 players when the NCAA's early signing period commenced Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL All times Eastern AMERICAN CONFERENCE EAST W L T PCT. PF PA New England 9 5 0 .643 374 310 Miami 7 7 0 .500 295 374 Buffalo 5 9 0 .357 215 333 N.Y. Jets 4 10 0 .286 292 359 SOUTH W L T PCT. PF PA Houston 10 4 0 .714 352 281 Indianapolis 8 6 0 .571 372 300 Tennessee 8 6 0 .571 268 254 Jacksonville 4 10 0 .286 225 289 NORTH W L T PCT. PF PA Pittsburgh 8 5 1 .607 384 316 Baltimore 8 6 0 .571 341 253 Cleveland 6 7 1 .464 309 348 Cincinnati 6 8 0 .429 337 413 WEST W L T PCT. PF PA x-Kansas City 11 3 0 .786 499 380 x-L.A. Chargers 11 3 0 .786 395 298 Denver 6 8 0 .429 306 299 Oakland 3 11 0 .214 260 418

CFP Semifinal: Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Alabama (13-0), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Dec. 31 Military Bowl at Annapolis, Md. Cincinnati (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (6-6), noon (ESPN) Sun Bowl at El Paso, Texas Stanford (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (7-6), 2 p.m. (CBS) Redbox Bowl at Santa Clara, Calif. Michigan State (7-5) vs. Oregon (8-4), 3 p.m. (FOX) Liberty Bowl at Memphis, Tenn. Missouri (8-4) vs. Oklahoma State (6-6), 3:45 p.m. (ESPN) Holiday Bowl at San Diego Northwestern (8-5) vs. Utah (9-4), 7 p.m. (FS1) Gator Bowl at Jacksonville, Fla. North Carolina State (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN) Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019 Outback Bowl at Tampa, Fla. Mississippi State (8-4) vs. Iowa (8-4), noon (ESPN) Citrus Bowl at Orlando, Fla. Kentucky (9-3) vs. Penn State (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC) Fiesta Bowl at Glendale, Ariz. LSU (9-3) vs. UCF (12-0), 1 p.m. (ESPN) Rose Bowl at Pasadena, Calif. Washington (10-3) vs. Ohio State (12-1), 5 p.m. (ESPN) Sugar Bowl at New Orleans Texas (9-4) vs. Georgia (11-2), 8:45 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Jan. 7 College Football Championship at Santa Clara, Calif. Cotton Bowl winner vs. Orange Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Kansas City +2 1 1/2 55 at Seattle Monday Denver 2 1/2 3 43 at Oakland Updated odds available at Pregame.com

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League CLEVELAND INDIANS — Signed OF Brandon Barnes and RHP Brooks Pounders to minor league contracts. LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with RHP Matt Harvey on a one-year contract. TAMPA BAY RAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Charlie Morton on a two-year contract. TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Signed 2B Eric Sogard to a minor league contract. National League CINCINNATI REDS — Designated LHP Robby Scott for assignment. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Designated RHP Ryan Meisinger for assignment.

BASKETBALL National Basketball Association ATLANTA HAWKS — Transferred F Alex Poythress from Erie (NBAGL).

FOOTBALL National Football League HOUSTON TEXANS — Activated CB Kayvon Webster from injured reserve. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed S Rolan Milligan from the practice squad. JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Placed OT Jermy Parnell and S Ronnie Harrison on injured reserve. Signed CB Brent Borders and OL Brandon Thomas from the practice squad.

HOCKEY National Hockey League CALGARY FLAMES — Assigned F Ryan Lemberg to Stockton (AHL). Activated F Michael Frolik from injured reserve. COLORADO AVALANCHE — Recalled G Joe Cannata from Utah (ECHL) to Colorado (AHL). LOS ANGELES KINGS — Placed D Dion Phaneuf on injured reserve, retroactive to Dec. 11. Activated F Ilya Kovalchuk from injured reserve. VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Recalled G Zach Fucale from Fort Wayne (ECHL) to Chicago (AHL). American Hockey League BELLEVILLE SENATORS — Recalled G Jake Paterson from Brampton (ECHL). CLEVELAND MONSTERS — Recalled F Dan DeSalvo from Toledo (ECHL). PROVIDENCE BRUINS — Recalled D Olivier Galipeau from Atlanta (ECHL). SAN DIEGO GULLS — Recalled F Tyler Soy from Tulsa (ECHL). SYRACUSE CRUNCH — Recalled G Martin Ouellette from Orlando (ECHL). UTICA COMETS — Recalled G Ivan Kulbakov from Kalamazoo (ECHL). ECHL ECHL — Suspended Adirondack D Michael Sdao three games. ADIRONDACK THUNDER — Loaned G Devin Buffalo to Utica (AHL). Added G Dylan Pasco as emergency backup. ATLANTA GLADIATORS — Released F Jared Ross. BRAMPTON BEAST — Signed G Anthony Dumont-Bouchard. FORT WAYNE KOMETS — Released F Aidan Muir. Traded F Justin Kea to Orlando. GREENVILLE SWAMP RABBITS — Traded F Alex Globke to Tulsa. KALAMAZOO WINGS — Signed G Dave Desander. ORLANDO SOLAR BEARS — Traded F Justin Kea to Toledo. Added G Bobby Fowler as emergency backup. READING ROYALS — Traded G Charlie Miller to Orlando. SOUTH CAROLINA STINGRAYS — Signed F Josh Gratton.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE EAST W L T PCT. PF PA Dallas 8 6 0 .571 276 269 Philadelphia 7 7 0 .500 311 318 Washington 7 7 0 .500 265 310 N.Y. Giants 5 9 0 .357 307 348 SOUTH W L T PCT. PF PA y-New Orleans 12 2 0 .857 459 292 Carolina 6 8 0 .429 333 344 Atlanta 5 9 0 .357 356 381 Tampa Bay 5 9 0 .357 344 403 NORTH W L T PCT. PF PA y-Chicago 10 4 0 .714 383 264 Minnesota 7 6 1 .536 323 308 Green Bay 5 8 1 .393 332 331 Detroit 5 9 0 .357 284 333 WEST W L T PCT. PF PA y-L.A. Rams 11 3 0 .786 448 343 Seattle 8 6 0 .571 363 292 San Francisco 4 10 0 .286 301 373 Arizona 3 11 0 .214 192 367 x-clinched playoff spot: y-clinched division

WEEK 16 Saturday's Games Washington at Tennessee, late Baltimore at L.A. Chargers, late Today's Games Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m. Houston at Philadelphia, 1 p.m. N.Y. Giants at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. Green Bay at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m. Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m. Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m. Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m. Jacksonville at Miami, 1 p.m. Tampa Bay at Dallas, 1 p.m. L.A. Rams at Arizona, 4:05 p.m. Chicago at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m. Pittsburgh at New Orleans, 4:25 p.m. Kansas City at Seattle, 8:20 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24 Denver at Oakland, 8:15 p.m.

WEEK 17 Sunday, Dec. 30 Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m. Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m. Carolina at New Orleans, 1 p.m. N.Y. Jets at New England, 1 p.m. Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m. Detroit at Green Bay, 1 p.m. Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m. Philadelphia at Washington, 1 p.m. Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m. Oakland at Kansas City, 1 p.m. Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m. Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m. L.A. Chargers at Denver, 4:25 p.m. Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

RESULTS/SCHEDULE All times Eastern (Subject to change)

FCS PLAYOFFS Semifinals Dec. 14 North Dakota State 44, South Dakota State 21 Dec. 15 Eastern Washington 50, Maine 19 Championship Saturday, Jan. 5 At Toyota Stadium, Frisco, Texas North Dakota State (14-0) vs. Eastern Washington (12-2), noon BOWL RESULTS/SCHEDULE All times Eastern Dec. 15 Celebration Bowl at Atlanta N.C. A&T 24, Alcorn State 22 Cure Bowl at Orlando, Fla. Tulane 41, Louisiana-Lafayette 24 New Mexico Bowl at Albuquerque Utah State 52, North Texas 13 Las Vegas Bowl Fresno State 31, Arizona State 20 Camellia Bowl at Montgomery, Ala. Georgia Southern 23, Eastern Michigan 21 New Orleans Bowl Appalachian State 45, Middle Tennessee 13 Tuesday's Game Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl UAB 37, Northern Illinois 13 Wednesday's Game Frisco (Texas) Bowl Ohio 27, San Diego State 0 Thursday's Game Gasparilla Bowl at St. Petersburg, Fla. Marshall 38, South Florida 20 Friday's Games Bahamas Bowl at Nassau FIU 35, Toledo 32 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl at Boise BYU 49, W. Michigan 18 Saturday's Games Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl Wake Forest 37, Memphis 34 Armed Forces Bowl at Fort Worth, Texas Houston (8-4) vs. Army (9-2), late Dollar General Bowl at Mobile, Ala. Buffalo (10-3) vs. Troy (9-3), late Hawaii Bowl at Honolulu Louisiana Tech (7-5) vs. Hawaii (8-5), late Wednesday, Dec. 26 SERVPRO First Responder Bowl at Dallas Boston College (7-5) vs. Boise State (10-3), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN) Quick Lane Bowl at Detroit Minnesota (6-6) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN) Cheez-It Bowl at Phoenix California (7-5) vs. TCU (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN) Thursday, Dec. 27 Independence Bowl at Shreveport, La. Temple (8-4) vs. Duke (7-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN) PinStripe Bowl at The Bronx, N.Y. Miami (7-5) vs. Wisconsin (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN) Texas Bowl at Houston Baylor (6-6) vs. Vanderbilt (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN) Friday, Dec. 28 Music City Bowl at Nashville, Tenn. Purdue (6-6) vs. Auburn (7-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN) Camping World Bowl at Orlando, Fla. West Virginia (8-3) vs. Syracuse (9-3), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN) Alamo Bowl at San Antonio Iowa State (8-4) vs. Washington State (10-2), 9 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Dec. 29 Peach Bowl at Atlanta Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan (10-2), noon (ESPN) Belk Bowl at Charlotte, N.C. South Carolina (7-5) vs. Virginia (7-5), noon (ABC) Arizona Bowl at Tucson, Ariz. Arkansas State (8-4) vs. Nevada (7-5), 1:15 p.m. (CBSN) Cotton Bowl Classic at Arlington, Texas College Football Playoffs Semifinal: Notre Dame (12-0) vs. Clemson (13-0), 4 p.m. (ESPN) Orange Bowl at Miami Gardens, Fla.

BIRMINGHAM (ALA.) BOWL WAKE FOREST 37, MEMPHIS 34 MEMPHIS 14 14 0 6-34 WAKE FOREST 7 17 6 7-37 First Quarter WF—Surratt 9 pass from Newman (Sciba kick), 12:28 MEM—Pollard 41 run (Patterson kick), 10:06 MEM—P.Taylor 1 pass from White (Patterson kick), 3:28 Second Quarter MEM—Claybrooks 37 interception return (Patterson kick), 14:49 WF—FG Sciba 36, 11:16 MEM—Pollard 97 kickoff return (Patterson kick), 11:04 WF—Newman 1 run (Sciba kick), 7:09 WF—Newman 17 run (Sciba kick), 5:33 Third Quarter WF—FG Sciba 49, 7:41 WF—FG Sciba 39, 3:49 Fourth Quarter MEM—P.Taylor 9 run (pass failed), 1:15 WF—Newman 1 run (Sciba kick), 7:09 A—25,717.

MEM WF First downs 22 26 Rushes-yards 53-207 50-201 Passing 171 328 Comp-Att-Int 15-29-1 22-40-1 Return Yards 221 5 Punts-Avg. 8-44-37 6-45-0 Fumbles-Lost 0-0 0-0 Penalties-Yards 3-20 7-50 Time of Possession 30:38 29:22

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS RUSHING—Memphis, P.Taylor 30-110, Pollard 17-109, White 6-(minus 12). Wake Forest, Newman 23-91, Colburn 14-61, Carney 12-51, (Team) 1-(minus 2). PASSING—Memphis, A.Williams 0-1-0-0, Jo.Williams 0-1-0-0, White 15-27-1-171. Wake Forest, Newman 22-40-1-328. RECEIVING—Memphis, Coxie 6-70, Jo.Williams 3-17, Magnifico 2-49, Slade 2-9, Craft 1-25, P.Taylor 1-1. Wake Forest, Bachman 7-171, Hinton 3-38, Colburn 3-13, Washington 2-53, Roberson 2-15, Surratt 2-13, Freudenthal 1-13, Carney 1-11, Chapman 1-1. MISSED FIELD GOALS—Memphis, Patterson 43.

ODDS

PREGAME.COM LINE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION Today FAVORITE LINE O/U UNDERDOG At Detroit 9 1/2 224 Atlanta At Indiana Off 0/2 Washington Philadelphia 21 12 .636 3 1/2 Boston Boston 18 12 .600 5 New Orleans 15 19 .441 10 Phoenix New York 9 25 .265 20 Sacramento SOUTHEAST DIVISION W L PCT GB Charlotte 16 15 .516 — Minnesota 14 16 .467 1 1/2 Orlando 14 17 .452 2 LA Clippers 12 20 .375 4 Atlanta 8 23 .258 8 Memphis CENTRAL DIVISION W L PCT GB Milwaukee 22 9 .710 — Indiana 21 12 .636 2 Detroit 15 15 .500 6 1/2 Cleveland 8 25 .242 15 Chicago 8 25 .242 15 WESTERN CONFERENCE SOUTHWEST DIVISION W L PCT GB San Antonio 18 15 .545 — Houston 16 15 .516 1 1/2 Memphis 15 15 .500 1 1/2 Dallas 15 18 .455 3 New Orleans 15 18 .455 3 NORTHWEST DIVISION W L PCT GB Denver 21 9 .700 — Oklahoma City 20 10 .667 1 Portland 18 14 .563 4 Utah 16 17 .485 6 1/2 Minnesota 14 18 .438 8 PACIFIC DIVISION W L PCT GB Golden State 21 11 .656 — L.A. Lakers 19 13 .594 2 L.A. Clippers 18 13 .581 2 1/2 Sacramento 17 15 .531 3 Phoenix 8 24 .250 13 Friday's Games Toronto 126, Cleveland 110 Charlotte 98, Detroit 86 Atlanta 114, New York 107 Indiana 114, Brooklyn 106 Milwaukee 120, Boston 107 Chicago 90, Orlando 80 San Antonio 124, Minnesota 98 Utah 120, Portland 90 Sacramento 102, Memphis 99 L.A. Lakers 112, New Orleans 104 Saturday's Games Denver at L.A. Clippers, late Phoenix at Washington, late Toronto at Philadelphia, late Milwaukee at Miami, late San Antonio at Houston, late Dallas at Golden State, late Oklahoma City at Utah, late Today's Games Atlanta at Detroit, 4 p.m. Washington at Indiana, 5 p.m. Charlotte at Boston, 6 p.m. Chicago at Cleveland, 6 p.m. Miami at Orlando, 6 p.m. New Orleans at Sacramento, 6 p.m. Phoenix at Brooklyn, 6 p.m. Minnesota at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 8:30 p.m. Dallas at Portland, 9 p.m. Memphis at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m. Memphis at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m. Tuesday's Games Milwaukee at New York, 12 p.m. Oklahoma City at Houston, 3 p.m. Philadelphia at Boston, 5:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 8 p.m. Portland at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

PRO BASKETBALL

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Saturday's Games No. 1 Kansas at No. 18 Arizona State late No. 3 Tennessee 83, Wake Forest 64 No. 4 Michigan 71, Air Force 50 No. 5 Virginia 72, William & Mary 40 No. 6 Nevada vs. Akron, late No. 7 Auburn vs. Murray State, late No. 9 North Carolina vs. No. 19 Kentucky at the United Center, late No. 11 Florida State 81, Saint Louis 59 at the BB&T Center, Sunrise, Fla. No. 15 Ohio State 80, UCLA 66 at the United Center No. 16 Wisconsin 84, Grambling State 53 No. 17 Mississippi State vs. Wright State at Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson, Miss., 7 p.m. No. 22 Indiana vs. Jacksonville, 6 p.m. No. 23 Iowa 110, Savannah State 64 No. 25 Nebraska 86, Cal State Fullerton 62 Today's Game No. 21 Houston vs. Coppin State, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS All times Eastern EAST American U. 82, Md.-Eastern Shore 58 Brown 78, Marist 53 CCSU 93, Maine 90, 20T Duquesne 85, E. Kentucky 84, OT Fairfield 63, New Hampshire 57 Georgetown 102, UALR 94, OT Harvard 75, George Washington 61 Hofstra 107, Rosemead 54 Holy Cross 60, Siena 57 La Salle 57, Towson 51 Lehigh 88, St. Francis (Pa.) 76 Mount St. Mary's 83, St. Mary's College of Maryland 44 Niagara 78, Army 66 Rutgers 68, Columbia 65, OT Stony Brook 76, Quinnipiac 73 Syracuse 82, Arkansas State 52 Temple 82, Drexel 64 Villanova 81, UConn 58 Wagner 77, Hartford 68 West Virginia 74, Jacksonville St. 72 Yale 99, Iona 84 N. Colorado vs. Rider at Las Vegas, Nev., late Loyola of Chicago at Saint Joseph's, late Sacred Heart at St. John's, late Rhode Island vs. Bucknell at Honolulu, Hawaii, late

N.Y. Islanders 34 17 13 4 38 98 97 Penalties—None. N.Y. Rangers 33 15 13 5 35 97 107 Carolina 33 14 14 5 33 85 97 Philadelphia 34 14 16 4 32 101 123 New Jersey 34 12 15 7 31 102 122

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Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 1 of 1; San Jose 0 of 1. Goalties—Los Angeles, Quick 4-8-2 (31 shots-29 saves). San Jose, Jones 14-8-4 (31-28). Referees—Chris Rooney, Justin St Pierre. Linesmen—Kory Nagy, Tony Sericolo. BLUES 3, FLAMES 1 ST. LOUIS 2 0 1 —3 CALGARY 1 0 0 —1 First Period—1. St. Louis, Perron 12 (Bouwmeester), 4:06. 2. St. Louis, Bozak 5 (Maroon, Perron), 11:43 (pp). 3. Calgary, Tkachuk 16 (Lindholm, Gaudreau), 16:49 (pp). Penalties—Bennett, CGY, (holding), 10:06; Maroon, STL, (holding), 19:00. Second Period—None. Penalties—Edmondson, STL, (roughing), 13:51; Monahan, CGY, (high sticking), 15:09. Third Period—4. St. Louis, Sundqvist 6 (Barbashev, Dunn), 1:56. Penalties—Bortuzzo, STL, (slashing), 5:01. Shots on Goal—St. Louis 12-10-27. Calgary 9-13-29. Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 1 of 2; Calgary 1 of 4. Goalies—St. Louis, Allen 12-10-4 (29 shots-28 saves). Calgary, Smith 11-8-1 (27-24). A-18,683 (19,289). T—2:23. Referees—Red Anderson, Dean Morton. Linesmen—Trent Knorr, Bevan Mills.

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ARMED FORCES BOWL: Army 70, Houston 14

Hopkins leads ground assault for Black Knights

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Army quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr. ran for 170 yards and an Armed Forces Bowl-record five touchdowns and the No. 22 Black Knights overwhelmed Houston 70-14 on Saturday to reach 11 wins for the first time in program history.

The Black Knights (11-2) won their ninth consecutive game since an overtime loss at Oklahoma exactly three months earlier.

Hopkins had a nifty 77-yard TD run on the last play of the first quarter. The junior initially ran right before cutting back the other way and alluding one tackler. He sent two other defenders sliding to the ground when he switched directions again back toward the middle of the field.



AP PHOTO

Army running back Jordan Asberry was one of five Army players to rush for more than 50 yards against Houston.

Hopkins completed the first 1,000-yard passing season for Army since 2007. He was 3-of-3 for 70 yards, including a 54-yarder that set up one of his three 1-yard TD

plunges. He also had a 2-yard TD run.

Army got 507 of its 592 total yards on the ground.

Houston (8-5) lost for the fourth time in five games since starting 7-1.

BIRMINGHAM BOWL: Wake Forest 37, Memphis 34

Newman's 1-yard run caps off comeback

By JOHN ZENOR
AP SPORTS WRITER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Jamie Newman's season started on a sour note and finished on a sweet one.

Newman ran for a 1-yard touchdown with 34 seconds left to cap a big performance and Wake Forest's comeback in a 37-34 victory over Memphis in the Birmingham Bowl on Saturday. The quarterback who lost the competition for the starting job in fall camp, then replaced an injured Sam Hartman, delivered big play after big play in a storybook ending to the season.

"When Sam got hurt and Jamie became the starter, it wasn't like,

'Woe is us,' and 'we're in trouble,'" Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson said. "Jamie and Sam were going back and forth all of camp and then Jamie got hurt (bruised quad) in the last scrimmage."

Even after that go-ahead score, the Demon Deacons (7-6) had to wait to celebrate until Riley Patterson's 43-yard field goal attempt went wide right as time expired.

Both teams scored touchdowns over the final 1:15. Memphis (8-6) lost a big lead for the second straight game after jumping ahead by 18 points in the first half.

Newman ran for three touchdowns and passed for a fourth to lead Wake Forest, throwing for 328 yards and rushing 23

times for 91 more.

He led the Demon Deacons on a 75-yard drive starting at the 1:15 mark, covering most of it with completions of 49 and 20 yards to Alex Bachman.

"Alex Bachman made some great plays down there, a lot of one-on-one balls, 50-50 balls, and he won," Newman said.

He rebounded from an early sack on that last scoring drive, and from a pick-six in the first half, too.

Bachman finished with seven catches for 171 yards.

Tony Pollard scored on a 97-yard kickoff return to tie the NCAA career mark with seven. Pollard matched the career mark shared by Clemson's C.J.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Miami, USC have signing work to do

By STEVE MEGARGEE
AP SPORTS WRITER

Some traditional recruiting heavyweights have plenty of work to do in the next several weeks to sign the level of talent they usually attract.

As college football's early signing period concluded Friday, Southern California was outside the top 20 and Miami wasn't in the top 30 in composite rankings of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports. That leaves both schools needing to stock up by the Feb. 6 traditional signing date.

"The average star ratings are just not very good at least compared to what we're used to for those programs," Rivals director of recruiting Mike Farrell said.

There aren't many senior prospects left to pursue. 247Sports scouting director Barton Simmons says "roughly 80 percent" of the likely Football Bowl Subdivision recruits signed this week.

But the geographic tilt of those signees gives Southern California reason for optimism.

Four of the top five California prospects in the 247Sports Composite remain unsigned. Simmons said USC is a leading contender for Bru McCoy and Kyle Ford, two of the top three prospects in California.

Alabama leads the 247Sports Composite team standings and is followed in order by Southeastern Conference rivals Georgia, Texas A&M and LSU.

Miami remains in the chase for two top uncommitted players in receiver Jadon Haselwood and cornerback Tyrique Stevenson. Haselwood, ranked sixth in the 247Sports Composite, also is considering Georgia and Oklahoma. Stevenson, 38th in the 247Sports Composite, is deciding between Miami and Georgia.

"If Miami lands those guys, all of a sudden things are looking up," Simmons said. "But it feels like those guys are trending elsewhere right now."

Some notable recruiting angles to watch as the early signing period ends and teams turn to February.

MORE FLIPPING: Some top-100 prospects made last-minute switches. Safety Jordan Battle signed with Alabama after verbally committing to Ohio State. After switching his verbal commitment from Michigan to Alabama this month, safety Daxton Hill ended up signing with Michigan after all. Quarterback Sam Howell signed with North Carolina after being verbally committed to Florida State.

SEC SURPRISES: Chad Morris went 2-10 in his debut season as Arkansas' coach, but earned plenty more victories recruiting. Arkansas ranks 20th in the 247Sports team standings. While the Razorbacks are still in the bottom half of the SEC, a top-20 position is impressive considering their struggles on the field.

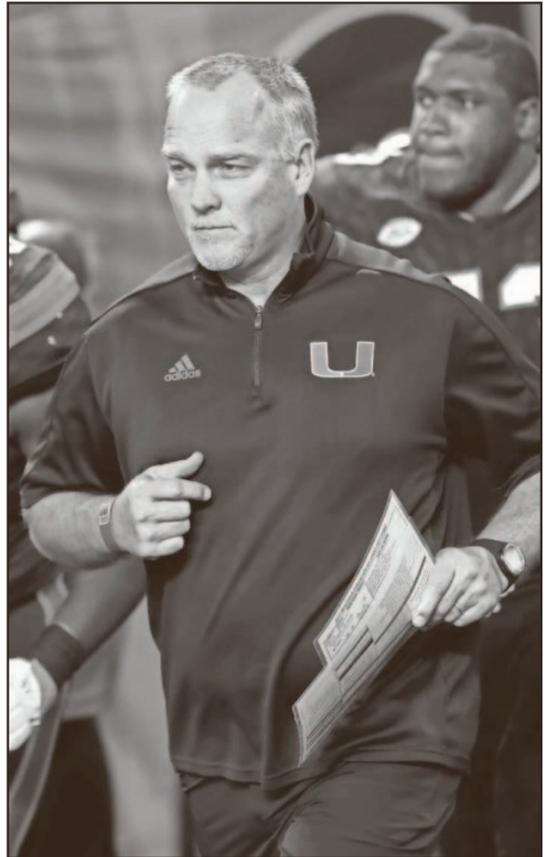
"Arkansas was probably the biggest surprise of the year," Farrell said.

Tennessee, which went 5-7, has put together a top-15 class. The Vols signed 17 players on Tuesday and got more good news when running back Eric Gray (171st in the 247Sports Composite) signed Thursday and linebacker Quavaris Crouch (39th) announced Friday he also plans to sign with the Vols.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Four of the top 10 players in the 247Sports Composite remain uncommitted. Haselwood is the top remaining uncommitted player. McCoy (rated No. 7 overall) is choosing between USC and Texas. Defensive tackle Ishmael Sopsher (No. 9) is considering Alabama and LSU. Offensive tackle Darnell Wright (No. 10) is looking at Tennessee and Alabama.

STOCK RISERS: Because so much of the top seniors already have signed, the remaining uncommitted players could start getting more offers.

"With only 20 percent (of prospects) left out there and plenty of programs still with some room available, there are going to be some guys who were otherwise middle-of-the-road prospects who are going to be treated like five-stars in the next couple of weeks," Simmons said.



AP PHOTO

Miami head coach Mark Richt has recruiting work to do. At the conclusion of the early signing period, Miami wasn't in the top 30 of the team standings in composite rankings of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports.

SPORTS COMMENTARY

Anti-Doping Agency, Patrick get Newby Awards

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

Wanted: a host for the sixth annual Newby awards.

Yes, we're in a bit of a bind, though nothing like the good folks at the Academy Awards.

You see, we never even got to the point where Kevin Hart accepted the honor, then had to withdraw because people capable of working the screengrab function pointed out that he's posted some terrible things about gay people.

I guess the lack of an actual ceremony — not to mention those all-important goody bags they hand out backstage — has stifled our search just a bit.

But we've still got time to rectify the situation.

Anyone interested?

Chris Rock? Billy Crystal? Who has Ellen DeGeneres' number?

Well, since no one

appears interested in a major career boost, we'll resort to our usual method for doling out the 2018 awards.

Without further ado, the winners (using that term very loosely) are:
INVERTEBRATE AWARD

Always one of the most competitive categories in sports, this year the choice is clear. While it's hard to deny the spineless wonders at the World Anti-Doping Agency, who went against the advice of pretty much everyone except Vladimir Putin when they in effect forgave Russia for its massive doping operation, we've got to go with those who looked the other way for years when faced with very clear evidence of Larry Nassar's serial sexual abuse. If you know of a doctor, coach or anyone who is abusing another human being, report it. Nassar will spend the rest of his miserable life

behind bars. Those who allowed him to get away with his crimes for so long are equally culpable.

URBAN LIAR 101

While we're on the subject of lacking backbone, let's not forget Urban Meyer. The Rose Bowl will go down as his last game, but we'd prefer to focus on some other achievements that came to light during his final season as Ohio State coach. Like spending the better part of the past decade hiding, denying, ignoring and justifying the horrific behavior of assistant coach Zach Smith. Meyer served a three-game suspension, returned to lead the Buckeyes to another Big Ten title, and then announced his retirement. Of course, disgraced coaches never just fade away. Meyer says he'll be back on campus next year to teach a course on character and leadership. You can't make this stuff up, folks.

WORST FAREWELL TOUR

Danica Patrick, who had far more success on Madison Avenue than she did on the race track, closed her career in appropriate style. The much-ballyhooed "Danica Double" turned into the Danica Dud when Patrick crashed out of both the Daytona 500 and the Indianapolis 500. She finished 35th out of 40 drivers in her final stock-car race, followed by 30th out of 33 in her Indy-car capper. While Patrick was a highly influential figure, it feels as if her career was largely an opportunity wasted.

BEST DEBUT

Talk about a longshot. The Vegas Golden Knights brought the NHL to the land of all-you-can-eat buffets, watered-down drinks and washed-up stars. But instead of going through the growing pains that are a rite of passage for most

expansion franchises, the Golden Knights won their division and made it to the Stanley Cup final. Alas, that's where the fairytale ended with a loss to the Washington Capitals. It would've been fun to needle Toronto fans that an expansion team held the title champions of hockey, while the Maple Leafs haven't won the cup in over a half-century.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR REDUNDANCY

The College Football Playoff is certainly a welcome upgrade over previous methods for selecting a national champion, but it's clear that changes are needed. The same teams keep showing up in the four-team field, including Alabama all five years, Clemson four times and Oklahoma on three occasions. Notre Dame is the only newcomer this season. An eight-team playoff would be an easy

fix, giving berths to each of the Power Five conference champions, another berth to the top team from the Group of Five, and two wild-card spots.

MOST UNLIKELY TITLE

The city of Atlanta was once dubbed "Losersville," with good reason. Until this year, the 1995 World Series-winning Braves were the A-T-L's only big-time champions (though those who remember soccer's Atlanta Chiefs, all 14 of them, would beg to differ). Atlanta United broke the 23-year drought by winning the Major League Soccer championship in just its second season. The title was a fitting reward for a franchise that has become one of the best-supported teams in the world. Atlanta broke its own league record by averaging more than 53,000 fans per game during the regular season.

■ BUCS VS. COWBOYS

Take 2: Cowboys try to wrap up NFC East, this time vs. Bucs

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ezekiel Elliott and the Dallas Cowboys failed in their first attempt to wrap up the NFC East by losing to Indianapolis when the Colts badly needed a win for their playoff chase.

Now the NFL's rushing leader and his teammates will try again Sunday, this time facing an opponent with nothing on the line a week after Tampa Bay was eliminated from post-season contention with a loss in Baltimore.

"I think everyone in this locker room understands how important this game is," Elliott said with Dallas coming off the franchise's first shutout loss in 15 years. "I think it would be kind of beating a dead cow to come in here and harping on what happened last week."

Jameis Winston and the Bucs (5-9) are putting the wraps on a strange year that began with the quarterback's personal-conduct suspension, followed by his inability to keep the job once Ryan Fitzpatrick cooled off.

Fitzpatrick's struggles gave him another shot, and Winston is set for his fifth straight start, the longest stretch for either QB this year.

"Even though we're out of contention, it still feels good to win," said

receiver Mike Evans, a bright spot for an offense that had little trouble churning out yards but often didn't turn them into points. "Christmas is coming up. It'll be good to have Christmas sitting on a 'W.'"

The Cowboys (8-6) just want to end their division race.

Dallas ran off five straight wins to earn the enviable position of needing one victory in the final three games to reach the postseason for the second time in three seasons with Elliott and quarterback Dak Prescott, the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year on a playoff team two years ago.

Moving the ball wasn't a problem for the Cowboys in the first half of the 23-0 loss to Indianapolis, but they squandered several scoring chances. A defense that has carried Dallas most of the season had the bigger letdown in the second half.

The Cowboys can win the division with another loss if Washington and Philadelphia lose. They don't want to go there.

"Guys were excited to get back there and get rid of that last game and kind of build from scratch and kind of build our swagger back," said cornerback Byron Jones, who was voted to his first Pro Bowl this week. "I know we're going to come out feisty



AP FILE PHOTO

In this Dec. 16, file photo, Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Jameis Winston, center, looks for a receiver as he is pressured in the second half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, in Baltimore.

and fierce."

Things to consider as the Cowboys try to build on a 9-1 home record in the series with the Bucs, 11-1 if you include two playoff wins in the 1980s:

RACE IS ON

Elliott and Todd Gurley of the Los Angeles Rams have been locked in a duel for the rushing lead for several weeks. Elliott, the 2016 rushing champion as a rookie, extended his lead despite the Cowboys' paltry showing at the Colts. He's 98 yards ahead with two games left, and also leads in yards from scrimmage.

DECEPTIVE NUMBERS

The Buccaneers have thrown for 4,464 yards, fourth-most passing yards through the first 14 games in NFL history behind the 2013 Broncos (4,713), 2000 Rams (4,706) and 2011 Saints (4,639). They've dropped from first to third in total offense (416.6 per game) over the past two weeks after leading the league for much of the year.

Although they still have the No. 1 passing attack (318.9), that hasn't translated into scoring enough points to win consistently. The Bucs

are 12th in points scored (24.6) and 30th in points allowed (28.8).

EASY ON LEE

It would be putting it mildly to say the Cowboys eased Sean Lee back in after the linebacker missed five games with his second hamstring injury of the season. He played seven snaps against the Colts. The emergence of rookie Leighton Vander Esch and Jaylon Smith is the primary reason, although the defense played poorly enough last week that perhaps more playing time for Lee is warranted.

EVANS' BANNER YEAR

Evans has 74 receptions and is closing in on Tampa Bay's franchise record for receiving yards in a season. One of just three receivers in league history to begin a career with five consecutive 1,000-yard seasons, Evans has 1,328 yards through 14 games. He needs 95 to break Mark Carrier's club record of 1,422 from 1989.

"Hopefully I can get it," said Evans, who has seven 100-yard games this season. "This week hopefully. If not, then next week."

LOOKING TO RETURN

Dallas right guard Zack Martin, who has now made the Pro Bowl in all five of his seasons, practiced Thursday for the first time since aggravating his left knee injury two weeks ago in a win over Philadelphia that pushed the Cowboys to the brink of the division title. He sat for the first time in his career against the Colts.

If Martin returns, the Cowboys will have to decide between Xavier Su'a-Filo and rookie Connor Williams at left guard. Su'a-Filo went to the hospital in Indianapolis after getting poked in the eye by teammate La'el Collins. The eye is improving, and he was a full practice participant Thursday.

■ MIAMI DOLPHINS

Dolphins' home finale vs. Jaguars could set tone for uncertain offseason

By SAFID DEEN

SUN SENTINEL (TNS)

Dolphins defensive end Cameron Wake, 36, acknowledges that it would be quite difficult to envision putting on another NFL jersey after playing 10 seasons with Miami.

Running back Frank Gore, 35, is a former University of Miami great whose 14th NFL season ended last week after suffering a foot injury. He wants to play another season with the Dolphins, too.

Quarterback Ryan Tannehill has battled shoulder and ankle injuries while playing on a surgically repaired knee this season, but has yet to lead Miami to a playoff victory in seven seasons.

Third-year coach Adam Gase and second-year defensive coordinator Matt Burke, despite a number of injuries to key players

and an abysmal showing on the road this year, have managed to keep the Dolphins afloat with a 7-7 record through 15 weeks of the regular season.

The Dolphins will play their final home game of the season Sunday against the Jacksonville Jaguars (4-10) at Hard Rock Stadium, which has hosted several eventful contests this year.

The Dolphins have a chance to improve their home record to 7-1 for the first time since 2002, and just the fifth time since the stadium opened in 1987.

It could also be the last Dolphins home game for players like Tannehill and Wake, coaches like Gase and Burke, general manager Chris Grier and vice president of football operations Mike Tannenbaum before an offseason with some uncertainty begins.

Dolphins owner

Stephen Ross will have to decide where each player, coach and executive fits into the fold next season.

A final home victory, which could keep Miami's slim playoff hopes this season alive, could aid all of their cases for at least one more week before the regular season ends in Buffalo against the Bills on Dec. 30.

"It's an honor to get to go out and step foot on that field every time we get to play at home," Tannehill said this past week. "We want to put on a good show for our fans and win every game that we play at home. It's definitely something we look forward to."

The Dolphins are not necessarily reeling from their blowout road loss to the Minnesota Vikings last week, which dropped their road record to 1-6 this season, and put them behind the Baltimore Ravens, Indianapolis Colts

and Tennessee Titans in a battle for the final AFC playoff spot.

While they need to win their final two games and need some help from other teams to reach the playoffs, the Dolphins have used their "never-say-die" attitude to overcome injuries to key players who would have contributed much of the season.

"You have other teams that can affect our season, good or bad. But none of it matters if we don't handle the next two games and figure out a way to win," Gase said this past week.

Wake and Gore will be unrestricted free agents after the season, with hopes the Dolphins resign them in 2019.

"Whenever the off-season comes, after the Super Bowl, like I do every year, I'll sit down and assess those different options and see where

it takes me," Wake said Friday. "I still feel good. I still feel like I can help."

After the season, the Dolphins could make a decision to improve their quarterback situation. Tannehill, who is scheduled to make \$18.7 million next season, could be retained, but it is clear the Dolphins need to select a quarterback in the upcoming NFL draft to groom for the future.

A Dolphins win over the Jaguars would help Gase, under the leadership of Tannenbaum and Grier, compile a 24-23 record in his three seasons as Dolphins coach with one more game to go. Miami has played 23 of those games without Tannehill due to injuries.

Miami's season at home has been eventful, starting with the longest game in NFL history against the Titans due to lightning delays, receivers Albert Wilson and Jakeem Grant

high-fiving while running into the end zone against the Oakland Raiders, and rookies like kicker Jason Sanders and linebacker Jerome Baker making game-winning plays.

The last two games had eventful finishes on the final play, including a miraculous 69-yard game-winning touchdown against the New England Patriots on Dec. 9.

The Dolphins know their offseason will likely come with some uneasy decisions being made.

But a victory in the final home game of the season could have a lasting effect that indicates the franchise is progressing in a favorable direction.

Some help from other teams around the league could help, too.

"You keep fighting to the end," Gase said. "Weird things happen in this league and you just never know."

■ NFL: Titans 25, Redskins 16

Gabbert keeps Titans' hopes alive, beating Redskins

By TERESA M. WALKER

AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Blaine Gabbert threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to MyCole Pruitt with 4:30 left and the Tennessee Titans kept their playoff hopes alive by rallying to beat the Washington Redskins 25-16 on Saturday.

Gabbert came off the bench for the third time this season after the Redskins knocked Marcus Mariota out of the game late in the first half with a stinger. Gabbert hit Taywan Taylor for 35 yards to jump-start the winning drive, Derrick Henry ran four times for 33 yards, his last an 18-yarder to the 2. Gabbert then hit Pruitt at the back of the end zone.

The Titans (9-6) now must beat Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis



AP PHOTO

Washington Redskins inside linebacker Mason Foster (54) dives for Tennessee Titans wide receiver Corey Davis (84) in the first half of an NFL football game Saturday, in Nashville, Tenn.

Colts and have either Baltimore or Pittsburgh lose once to earn the AFC's second wild-card spot for a second consecutive playoff berth.

Safety Kevin Byard intercepted Josh Johnson's

pass on third-and-3 with 1:17 left. Then Malcolm Butler picked off a pass as time expired and ran 56 yards for an emphatic TD.

The Redskins (7-8) have lost five of six.

Mariota had thrown for

110 yards when sacked with 48 seconds left in the first half by defensive end Jonathan Allen. His right, throwing shoulder and arm were examined, then he walked to the locker room and was replaced

by Gabbert.

The Titans said Mariota suffered a stinger, the same injury that knocked him out of Tennessee's loss Nov. 18 at Indianapolis. He also was knocked out of the season opener with an elbow injury that cost him a start.

Gabbert threw for 101 yards, and Henry finished with 84 yards and a TD on 21 carries.

Adrian Peterson ran for 119 yards for Washington. That put him over 1,000 yards for the season for the first time since 2015 and made him the 12th player in NFL history with eight or more seasons with 1,000 yards rushing.

Johnson threw for 153 yards and a TD. Dustin Hopkins kicked field goals of 50, 40 and 46 yards, and Washington finished with three sacks.

The fourth quarterback

to start this season for Washington this season, Johnson drove the Redskins on the NFL's second-longest drive this season, taking the ball with 26 seconds left in the first quarter and then eating up 10:58 off the clock, going 98 yards over 17 plays. Johnson capped the drive with a 7-yard TD pass to Michael Floyd for a 10-6 lead.

INJURIES

With Washington already thin at guard, guard Zac Kerin hurt a knee on the Redskins' second drive of the game but was able to return. Redskins defensive end Matt Ioannidis hurt a hamstring.

Titans Pro Bowl defensive tackle Jurrell Casey aggravated a knee that kept him out of practice all week with 4:21 left.

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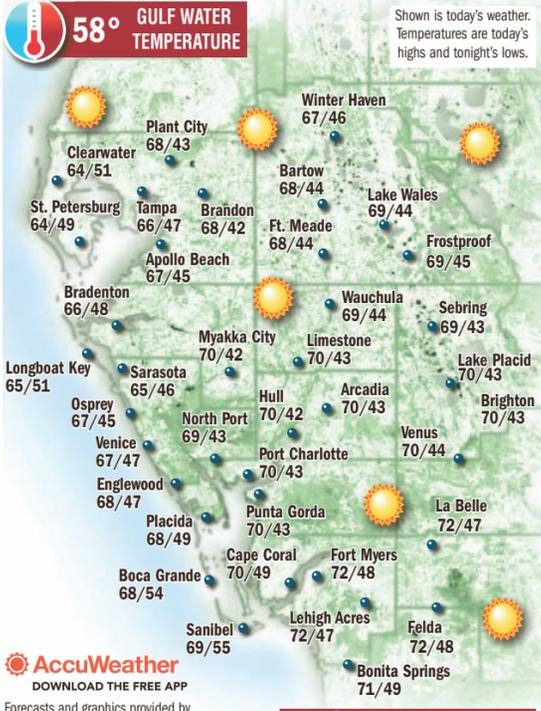
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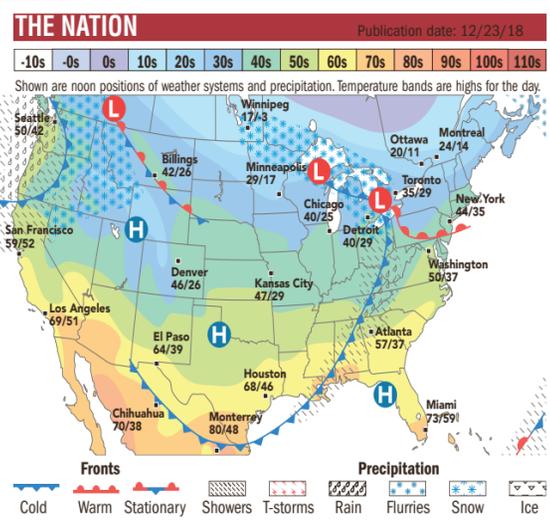
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TODAY / TONIGHT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Plenty of sunshine Chilly with patchy clouds HIGH 70° LOW 43° 0% chance of rain	Partly sunny and nice 73° / 50° 0% chance of rain	Pleasant with times of sun and clouds 78° / 56° 0% chance of rain	Times of clouds and sun 82° / 64° 5% chance of rain	Clouds giving way to some sun 82° / 66° 25% chance of rain	Increasing cloudiness 82° / 66° 25% chance of rain



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PORT CHARLOTTE

Punta Gorda through 2 p.m. Saturday

Temperatures

High/Low	66°/50°
Normal High/Low	76°/53°
Record High	84° (1987)
Record Low	32° (1973)

Precipitation (in inches)

24 hours through 2 p.m. Sat.	0.08"
Month to date	4.33"
Normal month to date	1.65"
Year to date	45.31"
Normal year to date	49.79"
Record	1.49" (1972)

VENICE

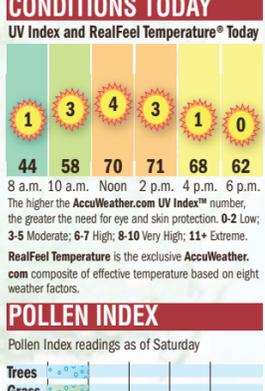
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MONTHLY RAINFALL

Month	2018	2017	Avg. Record/Year
Jan.	1.98	0.88	1.80 9.93/2016
Feb.	0.66	0.94	2.52 11.05/1983
Mar.	0.53	0.80	3.28 9.26/1970
Apr.	1.15	1.59	2.03 5.80/1994
May	15.98	2.74	2.50 15.98/2018
Jun.	6.23	14.79	8.92 23.99/1974
Jul.	9.80	9.02	8.22 14.22/1995
Aug.	12.37	13.12	8.01 15.60/1995
Sep.	7.58	12.46	6.84 14.03/1979
Oct.	2.60	2.54	2.93 10.88/1995
Nov.	1.91	0.44	1.91 5.53/2002
Dec.	2.47	1.04	1.78 6.83/2002
Year	63.26	60.36	50.74 (since 1931)

Totals are from a 24-hour period ending at 5 p.m.

SEBRING

Sebring through 2 p.m. Saturday

Temperatures

High/Low	63°/46°
----------	---------

Precipitation (in inches)

24 hours through 2 p.m. Sat.	0.05"
------------------------------	-------

AIRPORT

Possible weather-related delays today. Check with your airline for the most updated schedules.

Ft. Myers	Hi/Lo	Outlook	Delays
Ft. Myers	72/48	sun	none
Punta Gorda	70/43	sun	none
Sarasota	65/46	sun	none

POLLEN INDEX

Pollen Index readings as of Saturday

Trees	Grass	Weeds	Molds
1	2	3	4

absent low moderate high very high

Source: National Allergy Bureau

AIR QUALITY INDEX

Air Quality Index readings as of Saturday

34

0-50 Good; 51-100 Moderate; 101-150 Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200 Unhealthy; 201-300 Very Unhealthy; 301-500 Hazardous

Main pollutant: Particulates

Source: scgov.net

MARINE

Wind direction	Speed	Seas	Bay/Inland chop
NE	6-12	1-2	Light
E	5-10	1-3	Light

SUN AND MOON

The Sun	Rise	Set
Today	7:14 a.m.	5:41 p.m.
Monday	7:15 a.m.	5:41 p.m.

The Moon	Rise	Set
Today	6:57 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
Monday	8:03 p.m.	9:00 a.m.

Dec 29 Jan 5 Jan 14 Jan 21

SOLUNAR TABLE

Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Today	5:44a	11:59a	6:15p
Mon.	6:49a	12:29a	7:20p
Tue.	7:57a	1:42a	8:27p

WEATHER HISTORY

Snowflakes were reported in Florida at Tampa and Sarasota on Dec. 23, 1989. Tampa had a reading of 30 degrees.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What weather instrument often picks up Santa on his journey south?

A: Radar

WORLD CITIES

City	Today	Mon.	City	Today	Mon.
Amsterdam	48 40 c	46 34 pc	Mexico City	70 40 pc	70 43 pc
Baghdad	62 43 pc	63 44 pc	Montreal	24 14 s	22 10 pc
Beijing	34 9 s	34 11 s	Ottawa	20 11 s	20 4 pc
Berlin	46 32 c	36 32 c	Paris	57 51 r	53 35 r
Buenos Aires	84 65 s	86 67 s	Regina	19 11 pc	18 5 sn
Cairo	69 53 s	69 56 s	Rio de Janeiro	90 75 pc	86 76 t
Calgary	34 20 c	31 17 pc	Rome	62 46 pc	62 46 pc
Cancun	77 70 pc	79 72 pc	St. John's	43 23 c	29 21 c
Dublin	49 44 r	47 45 c	San Juan	83 72 pc	84 73 pc
Edmonton	20 8 c	17 8 c	Sydney	73 61 pc	78 64 s
Halifax	33 21 pc	29 19 c	Tokyo	54 45 s	50 39 s
Kiev	36 25 sn	30 23 sn	Toronto	35 29 sn	37 22 sn
London	54 44 r	48 37 r	Vancouver	47 39 r	46 34 r
Madrid	53 35 pc	56 37 pc	Winnipeg	17 -3 sn	9 -3 pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice.

■ HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

New Jersey athletic group benches referee who told wrestler to cut off his dreadlocks

Official won't be assigned to any matches while state association reviews incident

BUENA, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey's athletic association said Saturday that a referee who told a high school wrestler to cut his dreadlocks or forfeit, which drew ire from an Olympian, the state's governor and many others, won't be assigned to any matches until the incident is reviewed.

Michael Cherenon, spokesman for the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, said the organization had reached out to groups that assign referees "and they've all agreed" not to assign Alan Maloney to any event until further notice.

Buena Regional High School wrestler Andrew Johnson, who is black, had a cover over his hair Wednesday night during a match. But Maloney, who is white, said that wouldn't do. An SNJ Today reporter tweeted a video of Johnson getting his hair cut minutes before the match. Johnson went on to win but appeared visibly distraught.

The video was shared widely on social media, with users calling the incident "racist," "cruel" and "humiliating."

Jordan Burroughs, a 2012 Olympic gold medalist and four-time world champion, posted and spoke on social media early Saturday about the incident, saying he had never seen anything like it in a quarter-century of wrestling.

"This is nonsense," a message on Burroughs' Twitter account said. "My opinion is that this was a combination

of an abuse of power, racism, and just plain negligence." In a video posted on Instagram, he criticized parents and coaching staff at the match for not intervening, calling it "absolutely shameful."

Burroughs called Johnson "courageous" for his performance in the match despite "all of the adversity and racism that you were facing in the moment." The fellow southern New Jersey wrestler said Maloney had been the referee for some of his high school matches growing up.

Gov. Phil Murphy weighed in on the issue, saying he was "deeply disturbed" by the story.

"No student should have to needlessly choose between his or her identity and playing sports," he said.

The state attorney general's office has confirmed an investigation by the Division on Civil Rights.

Maloney came under fire in 2016 for using a racial slur against a black referee, according to the Courier Post newspaper. Maloney told the newspaper he did not remember making the comments.

After the incident was reported, he agreed to participate in sensitivity training and an alcohol awareness program. A one-year suspension was overturned.

A woman answering the phone Friday at a listed number for Maloney said the ordeal is being blown out of proportion and the referee was simply following rules.



AP PHOTO
United States Olympic gold medalist Jordan Ernest Burroughs (left) spoke out in support of a New Jersey high school wrestler who had his dreadlocks cut off minutes before his match after a referee said he would have to forfeit if he didn't do so.



AP PHOTO VIA SNJTODAY.COM
In this image from a video provided by SNJTODAY.COM, Buena Regional High School wrestler Andrew Johnson gets his hair cut courtside minutes before his match in Buena, N.J., after a referee told Johnson he would forfeit his bout if he didn't have his dreadlocks cut off. Johnson went on to win the match.

Publix now offers online shopping, delivery locally

By **INGRID UTECH**
CORRESPONDENT

SEBRING — Publix just made it easier for those living in Highlands County who can't get to the store for one reason or another to purchase groceries.

The grocery chain launched an online shopping and delivery service at its Sebring North, Sebring Southgate and Lake Placid stores.

The service is operated by Instacart, a San Francisco-based company, which hires shoppers in the different geographical areas where Publix has stores. With the addition of Highlands

County, Instacart shopping and delivery is now available at all Publix locations in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

"We're excited for the future of online ordering and delivery," Brian West, Publix Media and Community Relations Manager, said. "Convenience is important to our customers and we continue to look for opportunities to improve their shopping experience, both in-store and online."

Customers can sign up for Instacart and shop at publix.com/delivery. Prices for items

are higher than in the store because they cover the cost of operating the service and the cost of paying Instacart shoppers.

Once a customer places an order, it is sent to an Instacart App on a shopper's smartphone. The shopper fills the order and delivers it. Should any questions arise, the shopper and the customer are able to contact each other by phone. Instacart drivers use their personal, unmarked vehicles to make deliveries. Tips are paid directly to the Instacart shopper and driver.

Instacart is accepting applications for

shoppers. Applications can be filled out at shoppers.instacart.com. Applicants must be 18 or older and eligible to work in the U.S., and must have consistent access to a vehicle and a smartphone.

Shoppers select the hours they want to work and are compensated based on a formula that factors in the number of orders filled per shift and the number of items per order.

Payment rates are posted in the Instacart Shopper app, and shoppers can review the applicable rate schedule prior to accepting or rejecting a delivery opportunity.



COURTESY PHOTO/INSTACART

Publix has launched an online shopping and delivery service at its Sebring North, Sebring Southgate and Lake Placid stores.

Tech assistance

How to plan your smart home — and weigh privacy risks

By **ANICK JESDANUN**
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK — You might have heard of lights that turn off with an app or voice command. Or window shades that magically rise every morning.

Technology companies are pushing the "smart home" hard, selling appliances and gadgets that offer internet-connected conveniences you didn't know you needed. But before you succumb to the temptation — for yourself or others — consider that these devices might also give companies and hackers a key to your homes.

Here's how to get started on your smart home and what to worry about along the way.

1. STARTING THAT SMART HOME

A smart home can encompass features as simple as remote-controlled lamps and as sophisticated as thermostats that know when you're home and turn up the heat automatically. Down the line, you may want to mix and match these tasks into routines, such as a wake-up ritual that automatically starts the coffee maker, lifts the window shades and plays the news.

With the right tools, you can check remotely whether you remembered to lock the doors — and lock them if you forgot. Some systems can also create temporary digital keys for guests and contractors.

Many people start thinking about a smart home when they get a voice-activated speaker such as Amazon's Echo or Google Home, although such gadgets aren't strictly necessary. Nor do you even need actual smart lights and appliances, as you can buy smart plugs, adapters that control existing lights or whatever you plug into them.

If you catch the smart-home bug, you can add appliances with the smarts already built in as you replace your existing ones. Major remodels also offer an opportunity to make bigger smart-home plans. You probably wouldn't want to get new window shades now only to replace them with smart ones a year later.

2. THE RISKS

There are some concerns to keep in mind. Many devices are constantly listening for commands and connect to corporate servers to carry them out. Not everyone is going to



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This Nov. 11, 2018, photo shows an Ecobee smart thermostat, room sensor and connection components in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. Smart thermostats, which let consumers adjust their home temperatures remotely using any internet-connected device, are among the most popular smart home technologies, with the global smart thermostat market surpassing \$1 billion in 2017, according to Research and Markets.

be comfortable with live microphones in their homes (though your phone may already be doing the same thing, if you had enabled assistive features such as "Hey Siri" and "OK Google").

For the most part, recordings will leave home only when you trigger the device, such as by speaking a command phrase like "OK Google" or pressing a button to get the device's attention. But an Amazon device mistakenly recorded and sent a family's private conversation to an acquaintance after the device mistakenly thought it heard the trigger word followed by a "send message" request.

Check what safeguards a device offers before buying. Smart speakers, for instance, typically have a mute button to disable the microphone completely. Mozilla's Privacy Not Included project seeks to warn consumers about products with security or privacy problems. A general web search also might turn up complaints.

In general, it helps to stick with major brands, as their corporate reputations are at stake if they're caught taking shortcuts. Bigger companies can also quickly fix security holes that crop up. Gadgets from startups and no-name brands may offer little or no protection; those companies may be more concerned with rushing a product to market.

Bigger companies, however, are also more likely to use your data for marketing. So consider the



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Sept. 20, 2017, file photo the Nest Secure alarm system is seen on display during an event in San Francisco.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Aug. 16, 2018, file photo a child holds his Amazon Echo Dot in Kennesaw, Ga.

trade-offs.

3. LEAVING A DIGITAL TRAIL

Even if a product works as intended, it may be leaving a record that can resurface after hacks, lawsuits or investigations.

Manufacturers, for instance, typically store the voice commands their gadget send over the internet and use that data to help them personalize their services — and, potentially,

advertisements. These voice snippets may include music or conversations in the background. Reputable brands let you review and delete your voice history; be sure to do so regularly.

And think twice about smart locks and their digital keys. In a child-custody dispute, for instance, your ex might subpoena the records to learn that you've

US home sales rose 1.9 percent in November

By **JOSH BOAK**
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON — U.S. home sales increased in November for the second straight month, but sales plummeted 7 percent from a year ago amid growing affordability pressures.

The National Association of Realtors said Wednesday that sales of existing homes rose 1.9 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.32 million last month. But higher mortgage rates have caused sales over the past 12 months to plunge at the steepest pace since May 2011, when the real estate sector was still in the grips of the housing bust.

The average 30-year mortgage rate was 4.63 percent last week, up from 3.93 percent a year ago. Borrowing costs for home loans began to climb after President Donald Trump increased the federal budget deficit by signing

SALES | 6D



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This April 20, 2009 file photo, shows the British pharmaceuticals firm GlaxoSmithKline in London. Drugmakers GlaxoSmithKline and Pfizer are merging their healthcare divisions, creating a business with combined sales of \$12.7 billion. British-based Glaxo will own 68 percent of the joint venture, while U.S.-based Pfizer will own the remaining 32 percent stake.

GSK, Pfizer to merge health care divisions

By **DANICA KIRKA**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Drugmakers GlaxoSmithKline and Pfizer are merging their health care divisions, creating a market leader in "over the counter" health care products like pain relievers and vitamins with combined sales of 9.8 billion pounds (\$12.7 billion).

British-based GSK will own 68 percent of the joint venture, which will bring together GSK's brands such as Sensodyne, Voltaren and Panadol with Pfizer's Advil and Centrum. U.S.-based Pfizer will own the remaining 32 percent stake.

It is expected to take three years to merge the businesses across some 100 countries as well as to wait for the

Best Christmas present ever

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

SEBRING — Shelly Gomez called it “the best Christmas present ever.”

She was referring to the outstanding academic progress made by her 10-year-old grandson, Riley. Gomez serves as the boy’s guardian and together they made the decision to enroll Riley in The Tutoring Center for some extra help in math.

Reilly was an average student but he blossomed after just three months of tutoring. His reading comprehension shot up from a fourth-grade level to a sixth-grade level. His math skills also improved by more than a grade level. Riley had a quick explanation for his remarkable improvement.

“At the Tutoring Center, they explain it to me in



COURTESY PHOTO

Riley Salcedo, just a few levels from his black belt in Taekwondo, was all smiles when Dr. Challa presented him with an Academic Achievement Award.

a way that I can understand it,” Riley said. He is a fourth grader whose overall reading skills are now three grades higher than normal.

“Riley is like most of our students,” Dr. Shameema Challa, center director, said. “An average student will excel when he or she is given the right

kind of instruction and attention.”

The Tutoring Center, which hosts children from grades K-12, does something else.

“We emphasize character building skills here,” said Challa.

“Attitude, making your best effort, never giving up, and having confidence in yourself, are values just as important to us, as math and reading skills,” she said.

Riley, just a few levels from his black belt in Taekwondo, was all smiles when Challa presented him with an Academic Achievement Award.

“This is cool,” he said.

Parents or guardians that wish to learn more about The Tutoring Center are asked to call Challa at 863-269-8977 or email Tutoringcentersebringfl@gmail.com

B2B donates scholarship



COURTESY PHOTO

SEBRING — Business 2 Business donated a \$500 scholarship to a student at South Florida State College.

Need that hard-to-find item? Find it in the Classifieds.

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For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon
His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
Isaiah 9:6

LAKEFRONT

LAKE SEBRING
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A FUN MOVIE & MORE NIGHT at LAKE PLACID JOURNAL PLAZA
The first Friday of the month, the shops will be open till 8 PM. Dinner, Music and a Movie! Music begins 5:30 PM Movie Begins: 7:30 PM. Full Menu Good News Cafe, Beer, Wine, Coffee, Smoothies and more.

11/9	Greatest Showman
11/23	Moana
12/7	Mr. Peppers Penguins
12/21	Home Alone
1/4	Incredibles 2
1/18	Pete's Dragon
2/1	Wonder
2/15	Sing
3/1	Secret Life of Pets
3/15	Hidden Figures
4/5	Enchanted
4/19	Peter Rabbit

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8:00 TO 1:30



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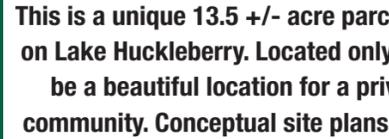
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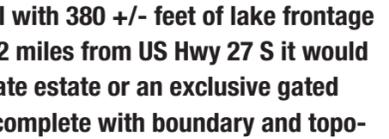
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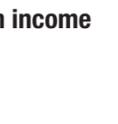
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• PRICE BENEFIT IF PURCHASED W/5/24 PEAR & 843 GRAPEFRUIT
\$165,000 MLS #249550
JIMMY WOHL 863-382-3887



1110 HOTIYEE AVE., SEBRING
• 4BD/2.5BA 1930's Home
• Charming 2 Story Home, Lots of Character
• Beautiful Hardwood Floors Upstairs,
• Tile Downstairs • Updated Kitchen & More
\$210,000 MLS#249675
DAWN DELL 863-381-0400



6764 HEAVITREE DR. SPRING LAKE, SEBRING
• 4BD/3BA/2+CG 2119SF
• New Home-Never Been Lived In
• Upgrades Throughout
\$239,900 MLS #250023
ROSE ABBOTT 863-781-0846



211 NE BUCHANAN AVENUE PLACID LAKES, LAKE PLACID
• .23 Acre Vacant Lot
• Deeded Access to Lake June
• \$8,000 EACH MLS #250428
DAWN DELL 863-381-0400



204 REVSON AVE. SEBRING
• 2BD/2BA/2CG 1260SF
• 1 Acre Fenced w/Lots of Fruit Trees
• Needs Some Updating
• Come Make It Your Own
\$150,000 MLS #249620
DAWN DELL 863-381-0400



1304 LAKESHORE DR. SEBRING
• 2BD/2BA/2CG 2000 SF
• 1.16 Acre Zoned AG • Guest House
• Lakeview of Lake Istokpoga
\$279,000 MLS #249439
KEITH JAMISON 540-598-2216



2000 N US HWY. 27 AVON PARK
• 2BD/2BA Home On 1.17 Acres
• On Lake Brentwood
• 4 RV Hook Ups for Possible Income
• New Roof and Well Water Pump
\$250,000 MLS #249224
ROSE ABBOTT 863-781-0846



2300 FAIRWAY CIRCLE GOLF HAMMOCK, SEBRING
• 7BD/5.5BA/7CG 6382SF
• Spacious Pool Home on Golf Course
• Golfing Community Mansion
• Ready for Your Personal Touches
\$539,900 MLS #249523
DAWN DELL 863-381-0400



11160 BENDING OAK DRIVE SEBRING
• .23 Acre Vacant Lot
• Good Building Lot Close to Town
\$6,000 MLS #250380
KEITH JAMISON 540-598-2216



Call to Place Your Ad TODAY 863-385-6155

CLASSIFIEDS

Garage Sales: 1-3 days, only \$22
 1 week: \$35
 2 weeks: \$49
 4 weeks: \$79

Reach Over 65,000 Readers EVERY DAY!

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE 22

7. PAGE (6), OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
 DATED this 21st day of November, 2018.
 ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Clerk Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Chrystal K. Williams
 Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida, 33830, 863-534-4686 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
 33585.2324 April 6, 13, 2018

2000 EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED 2001

Genpak

Genpak LLC, a leading manufacturer of disposable food-service packaging, is seeking to fill the following positions in our Sebring plant.

- ★ Packers
- ★ Quality Inspectors
- ★ Forklift Drivers/CDL
- ★ Electrician
- ★ Maintenance Mechanic
- ★ Production Supervisor
- ★ Parts Administrative Asst.
- ★ Reception/Accounting

***NOW* Open Interviews Thursdays: 1-3:30pm**

We offer a highly competitive compensation package, insurance & retirement benefits.
Apply in Person at 116 Shicane Dr., Sebring, FL 33870 & bring your resume. GenPak is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED 2001

Learn to Drive a Truck
 Get your Commercial Driver's License today at South Florida State College. Scholarships are available to eligible participants.
863-784-7033

SOUTH FLORIDA State College

HELP WANTED 2001

LYKES BROS. INC

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT

Lykes Bros. Inc. is in need of a self-motivated and experienced HR Assistant to support our busy HR department. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing administrative support for the department, assisting with the hiring process, benefits administration, payroll, scheduling new employee orientations and training and entering employment records into our HR database.

★ **Education/Experience Requirements:**
 Associate or Bachelor's degree preferable; Minimum of 2 yrs. of HR experience. Proficient computer skills.
 ★ **Please apply online** at www.lykesranch.com <http://www.lykesranch.com> Under the Career Tab or Email Greg Fraley at Greg.Fraley@Lykes.com

Drug-Smoke Free Workplace/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

CLASSIFIED & LEGALS HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Due to the holidays, please note our earlier deadlines for Classified & Legal advertising.

FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK:

Mon. Dec. 17 at 1pm for Wed. Dec. 19 edition;
Tues. Dec. 18 at 1pm for Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 20 & 21 editions;
Wed. Dec. 19 at 1pm for Sat. & Sun. Dec. 22 & 23 editions;
Thurs. Dec. 20 at 1pm for Mon. & Tues. Dec. 24 & 25 editions;
Fri. Dec. 21 at 1pm for Wed. Dec. 26 edition;
Mon. Dec. 24 at 1pm for Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 27 & 28 editions;

FOR NEW YEAR'S WEEK:

Wed. Dec. 26 at 1pm for Sat. & Sun. Dec 29 & 30 editions;
Thurs. Dec. 27 at 1pm for Mon. & Tues. Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 editions;
Fri. Dec. 28 at 1pm for Wed. Jan. 2 edition.
Mon. Dec. 31 at Noon for Thurs. Jan. 3 edition

The Highlands News-Sun office will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

From our family to yours, we wish you all a wonderful holiday season!



NEED CASH? Have A Garage Sale!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District
 RFP NO: 18-09
 Omar DeJesus, CPA, Finance Director
 5306 Sun 'n Lake Blvd.
 Sebring, FL 33872
 e-mail: odejesus@snldistrict.org
 Facsimile Number: 863-382-2988

OPENING TIME: 2:00pm
 OPENING DATE: January 31, 2019

THIS IS NOT AN ORDER YOU ARE INVITED TO PROPOSE ON THE FOLLOWING:

Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District
 Clubhouse and Kitchen Expansion

RFP No. 18-09
 The Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District hereby requests proposals for the additions and alterations to the Sun 'n Lake Golf Club from qualified and licensed contractors and vendors. Specifications can be found at www.snldistrict.org. Sealed bids will be due no later than 2:00pm, January 31, 2019.

State of Florida Tax Exemption Number is 85-8012528797C-8
 Signed: Tanya Cannady, CPA, CDM, General Manager
 Date: 12/13/18 Dec. 16, 2018

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE 22

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO. 18000296GCAXMX
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff,
 vs.
MARTHA H. HAYLOCK AKA MARTHA HIGDON HAYLOCK, et. al., Defendants.
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in Case No. 18000296GCAXMX of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida, wherein, **NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY,** Plaintiff, and **MARTHA H. HAYLOCK AKA MARTHA HIGDON HAYLOCK, et. al.,** are Defendants, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at THE JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT AT COURTHOUSE, 430 COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33870, at the hour of 11:00 A.M., on the 22nd day of January, 2019, the following described property:
LOT 2, BLOCK 16 OF LAKE HAVEN ESTATES, SECTION ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK

IN THE CLASSIFIED YOU CAN.....

- ✓ Find a Pet
- ✓ Find a Car
- ✓ Find a Job
- ✓ Find Garage Sales
- ✓ Find A New Employee
- ✓ Sell Your Home
- ✓ Sell Your Unwanted Merchandise
- ✓ Advertise Your Business or Service

Classified - it's the reliable source for the right results

A Bargain Hunters Delight Check the Classifieds First! A Whole Marketplace of Shopping is right at your Fingertips!



CPA Tax Accountant
 For immediate hire. Wanted CPA or CPA candidate. Req'd 5 yr exp in income tax and QuickBooks, BA in acctg. If not CPA, must be eligible for cert. DFWP. Send res. & ref. to info@cromancpa.com or Fax 863-314-9906.

FT Help Wanted No Week-ends! All Positions Available! Apply in person (no calls) Griffin's Dry Cleaning, 212 S. Ridgewood Dr., Sebring

FT Housekeeper-For Condo Complex. Sat. +2 week days; 8a-4p; Apply at: 124 Lake Drive Blvd., Sebring. DFWP

LYKES BROS. INC

Lykes Citrus Division:

Full-Time Equipment Operators:
 Duties include: performing general grove activities (mowing, spraying, herbiciding, fertilizing), service grove equipment; performing hand labor tasks as needed.

Full-Time Mechanic-Basinger Shop:
 Duties Include: diagnosing, repairing and maintain company vehicles, tractors and equipment. Experience in diesel & gasoline engines, hydraulics, air conditioning and automotive electrical. Welding and fabrication experience is a plus, but not required.

Please Apply: Online at www.LykesRanch.com or in person at Lykes Citrus Division, 7 Lykes Road, Lake Placid, FL 33852 or 106 SW CR 721, Okeechobee, FL 34974



Now Hiring: Sebring- Must be an energetic multi-tasker w/excellent customer service skills! DFWP. Call **Krissy 863-381-5381**

PT Truck Driver's Helper- Must be able to lift 50+lbs; have own transportation & pass Level II background check. Starting pay: \$11/hr. Call **800-929-2715** ask for Mike Solis or Rob Dague

CLASSIFIED ADS SELL



MAINTENANCE MANAGER SEBRING, FL

Local Manufacturer seeking a Maintenance Manager in our Sebring, FL plant. This is a key position that requires the right person who has 7-10 years experience desired in supervision of maintenance personnel. A chance to join an industry leader for the right individual.

We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits package!

Apply in Person at 116 Shicane Dr., Sebring, FL 33870 & bring your resume with salary history. *GenPak is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Join a Team of Heroes Apply Today

Special congratulations to our Associates of the Month



Amethyst Figueroa



Janis Garrison



Summer Solyntjes



Angela Gholston



Claudia Kurek



Joanne Westbrook

One of North America's leading providers of roadside assistance offers Customer Service Representatives:

- Comprehensive benefits package
- Monthly performance bonuses
- \$1 Spanish bilingual differential
- Full and Part-Time positions available
- \$11/hr starting pay

Apply online at Agero.com/careers or call 863-402-2786 to discuss your solid & stable future. 3310 Highway 27 South, Sebring, FL 33870



**HELP WANTED
2001**



GENPAK LLC, a leading manufacturer in the plastic food-service packaging industry in Sebring, FL area has an opening for an **INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC** in our Sebring, FL facility. **Must have a strong industrial/electrical/electronic background.** Troubleshooting and repair of mechanical, pneumatic & hydraulic production machinery. **Some job duties include:**

- ★ Install, maintain, inspect, troubleshoot, repair and perform preventative maintenance on all plant instrumentation, control systems, AC & DC drives and electrical equipment.
- ★ Responsible for prompt and accurate diagnosis of minor problems and the implementation of corrective action.
- ★ Set up and operate limited types of shop tools and specialized test, measuring equipment and hand tools utilized in any phase of machine installation or maintenance.
- ★ Conduct evaluation tests on valves, motors, instruments, etc.
- ★ Must be proficient in troubleshooting AC & DC controls.
- ★ Research specifications for materials, testing and repair of instrumentation and electrical equipment.
- ★ Welding and fabrication a plus.

Applicants must maintain a full complement of tools to perform normal duties. **Benefit package includes**, but is not limited to, health, dental, vision, life, AFLAC, 401k. Shift differential for night shift. Overtime mandatory as business demands.

Apply in Person at 116 Shicane Dr., Sebring, FL 33870 & bring your resume with salary history. *GenPak is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR (FT)
Application review begins: 2/4/19. For details and to apply visit <http://sfsc.interviewexchange.com> 863-784-7132. EA/EO.




Receptionist Needed
Full time position available at busy insurance agency.
Email resumes: fristins@embarqmail.com

Find it in the Classifieds!

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Needed to haul citrus throughout Central FL. **Must have: Valid Class A CDL lic., clean driving record & 2 yrs verifiable experience.** EOE/Drug Free Workplace. **Call 863-441-8323**

TRUCK DRIVERS NEEDED
Farmer needs 4 truck drivers, 02-08-19 to 06-15-19. The employer is **Bentley Brothers, Inc.** Workers will be paid 11.29 per hour. Job location is in Hardee, Polk, Hillsborough, DeSoto, Highlands, Manatee, Osceola, Indian River, Port St. Lucie, and Sarasota counties, Florida. 12 months agricultural truck driving experience is required. Driver must possess a valid driver's license. Employer will guarantee the opportunity for work for the hourly equivalent of 3/4 of the hours of the work period. The employer will provide the work tools, supplies and equipment at no cost to the worker. Housing will be provided for individual workers outside normal commuting distance. For workers residing beyond normal commuting distances, reasonable transportation and subsistence expenses to the worksite will be provided or paid by the employer after completion of 50% of the work period. Apply for this job at the CareerSource Polk office located at 500 E. Lake Howard Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33881 (863)-508-1100 using job listing number 10841963.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City of Sebring is recruiting for the following position(s):

Administrative Assistant	Closes: 12/28/2018
Water	

For an application contact the City of Sebring, (863) 471-5100 or visit us on our website at www.mysebring.com. **Drug Free Work place, EOE, Vet Pref.**

**HELP WANTED
2001**

HARDEE COUNTY UTILITIES (HCUD)

Seeking FL dual licensed Water/Water Waste operator:
★ **Utility Operator II** ("B/B" lic's) \$21.51-\$29.65/hr + benefits; or,
★ **Utility Operator I** ("C/C" lic's) \$20.55-\$28.33/hr + benefits.

Performing and organizing department O&M. Water & WW FL operator licenses, or for UOII/SUO can obtain both "B" or higher within one year.

~OR~

★ **Utility Operations Trainee**
On-the-Job training and experience in utility operations leading to certification & career advancement. Water & WW "C" operator licenses or ability to obtain within two years.

See complete descriptions at www.hardeecounty.net with applications to: HR, 205 Hanchey Rd, Wauchula, FL 33873. 863-773-2161. Filled as needed and based on qualifications. EOE-F/M/V

**PROFESSIONAL
2010**



SEEKING PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER

★ **Job Summary:**

Want to work for a fun, fast-paced & growing business? Do you like an environment where you are asked to help the company grow using more of your skill sets? Do you like being part of a profitable, successful family oriented business?

D-R Media and Investments LLC, located in Venice, FL, is looking for a part-time bookkeeper. This position will allow the employee to grow professionally & develop their accounting & finance skill set. The ideal candidate for this position is a skilled multi-tasker and is committed consistently meeting deadlines.

★ **Job Responsibilities**

- Report Directly to the Chief Financial Officer assisting him to achieve the key accounting & financial goals of the company.
- Create a variety of financial reports as needed by the CFO or CEO.
- Enter, review, code, and approve vendor invoices & employee expense reports to accounts payable.
- Research & resolve accounts payable issues.
- Reconcile payables to vendor statements and sub-ledger in SBS.
- Post & reconcile credit card transactions & statements.
- Process & record customer payments; apply payments to outstanding invoices.
- Prepare bank deposits.
- Assist in preparing monthly & annual financial statements.

Email Resumes to: rachel@d-r.media

Kid City Daycare & Preschool Now Hiring
Growing, Christ-centered facility is seeking to complete our team. Fulltime position available. **Call 863-385-3111 or visit 3599 Thunderbird Rd., Sebring**

**MEDICAL
2030**

RN WEEKEND MANAGER
Royal Care of Avon Park currently has a part-time position available for a Register Nurse to work every other weekend as the facility Weekend Nurse Manager. For more details please contact **Temeka Hipps, DON at 863-453-6674**. 1213 W Stratford Rd., Avon Park. EOE, DFWP, M/F.

**MEDICAL
2030**

Oaks at Avon
Readers Choice Award Facility
HIRING RNs
★ **New Wages** ★
Full-Time & Part-Time Positions
Flexible Shifts Available
Career Advancement Opportunities
All Eligible Applicants will be Interviewed Directly.
Apply at 1010 US Hwy 27 N., Avon Park or fax resume to Tammy Padilla at 863-453-5308



OAKS AT AVON
Readers Choice Award Facility
◆ **HIRING CNAs** ◆
Full/Part-Time, all shifts
~ **New Wages!!**
~ **Benefits for FT!!**
Apply at 1010 Hwy 27N Avon Park or fax resume to Tammy Padilla at 863-453-5308



PUT CLASSIFIEDS TO WORK FOR YOU!

**FIND A JOB!
BUY A HOME!
BUY A CAR!**

Oaks at Avon
Readers Choice Award Facility
★ **HIRING LPNs** ★
Full-Time & Part-Time Career Advancement Opportunities
Highly Competitive Salaries
All Eligible Applicants will be Interviewed Directly
Apply at 1010 US Hwy 27 N., Avon Park or fax resume to Tammy Padilla at 863-453-5308



★ **Full-Time LPN or RN (combination of shifts)**

★ **PRN LPN and RN**

24 bed Intermediate care facility for the developmental disabled. Low patient ratio Dynamic Team Environment!

★ **Essential Criteria:**
Current Florida RN/LPN license; Demonstrated interpersonal & written communication skills; Experience a plus but will train.

Fax resume to 863-452-2223: Attention to Angelina Cantera, DON; **Apply online at thementornetwork.com**
Apply in person at Florida Mentor, Avon Park Cluster, 55 E. College Dr., Avon Park. **863-453-0186**




Unit Manager/ Care Team Manager

RN/LPN-Long Term Care
★ **Sign On Bonus** ★

★ **Rewarding Work Environment**
★ **Competitive Compensation and Benefits!**

Responsibilities:

- Supervise day-to-day nursing activities performed by charge nurses & the certified nursing assistants (CNA's) on their team.
- Monitor resident care to ensure it meets the federal, state & local standards, guidelines and regulations.
- Assign tasks and evaluate employee job performance.
- Mentor, coach & support unit staff.
- ★ Supervision experience and long term care experience required. Must have current Florida RN/LPN License.

Join Our Team. Voted Best in Highlands County!

Apply:
at www.palmsofsebring.com
Email resume to: mbruns@palmsofsebring.com or In Person at: 725 S. Pine St., Sebring, FL 33872.

**GENERAL
2100**

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

Royal Care of Avon Park, currently have 12-hour shifts available: 7a-7p and 7p-7a, FT, PT and PRN. We are also offering a **Sign-On Bonus** to all new hire C.N.As. **Excellent Pay** available. **Great Benefits** that include but not limited to: Health Insurance, Dental, Short Term/Long Term disability, Vision, Holiday and PTO. **For more details please contact Maria Perez, HR Director at 863-453-6674**. EEOC, DFWP.

Turn your trash into cash!
Advertise your yard sale!

3000



NOTICES

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
3010**



Do You Need More Business?

Reach out to all of Highlands County with 2 publications plus 2 websites to **Advertise Your Business!!**

Let customers Find You by advertising your business on the **Business & Services Page!**

Mention this ad and Call Today !!
863-658-0307



6000



MERCHANDISE



HIGHLANDS HOT DEALS!

Do you have stuff to sell at \$500 or less? **Advertise your merchandise now in the Classified Section!**

**\$3 for 3 Lines
\$4 for 4 Lines
\$5 for 5 Lines**

Call
863-385-6155 or 863-658-0307



6000



MERCHANDISE



CLASSIFIED & LEGALS HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Due to the holidays, please note our earlier deadlines for Classified & Legal advertising.

FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK:

Mon. Dec. 17 at 1pm for Wed. Dec. 19 edition;
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Thurs. Dec. 20 at 1pm for Mon. & Tues. Dec. 24 & 25 editions;
Fri. Dec. 21 at 1pm for Wed. Dec. 26 edition;
Mon. Dec. 24 at 1pm for Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 27 & 28 editions;

FOR NEW YEAR'S WEEK:

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The Highlands News-Sun office will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

From our family to yours, we wish you all a wonderful holiday season!



**GARAGE SALES
6014**

Get BIGGER RESULTS with a Highlands News-Sun Garage Sale Ad- ONLY \$22 for 4 lines.....!
Call 863-385-6155 in Highlands County

Sebring-8a-5p Sat & Sun at 905 Rancho Dr. Furniture, tools, household items & more! Last minute Christmas!

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS
6030**

Serving ware-Dishes: 12pc setting w/serving pcs. Yellow & orange. \$60; Silversware: 12pc setting w/serving pcs. \$40. 863-873-4150 Highlands Ridge

**FURNITURE
6035**



DOWNTOWN MALL & NEW "DELI"
NOW OPEN WED-SAT 9-5
★ Leather Recliner Only \$49
★ 150 pics & posters from \$5
★ 8 sofas from \$85
★ Sofa Bed Only \$25
231 S. Ridgewood, near the Circle, Sebring 863-471-3435

Entertainment Center-Solid oak, nearly new. 112" w x 78" h (3 pieces) fits TV 55" \$350. **217-690-7853**



We Buy/Sell Clean Used Furniture. Best Prices in Town! Sebring Furniture 1542 Lakeview Dr. (next to Save-a-Lot) 863-386-1119

Living rm furniture-Solid white oak: Matching sofa table, coffee & 1 end table, \$60 ea. **217-690-7853**

**FURNITURE
6035**

Living room set-matching couch, loveseat & chair. Yellow. \$500. **863-873-4150** Highlands Ridge

White kitchen table/4 chairs \$75. 2 wood end tables \$100. 2 glass end tables \$100. 2 lamps w/shades \$10. Bedding full & queen \$5. Nice full mattress set, \$100, 567-208-2421

**TV/STEREO/RADIO
6040**

TV - Flat 37". LG, exc. cond., \$135.00 - 561-386-1806
TV, RCA 19", color, \$25.00 828-455-1583

**CLOTHING / JEWELRY/ ACCESSORIES
6065**

Formal & Dressy Dresses \$10-\$25, sm, med, lg, excellent cond., 618-243-5547

**ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES
6070**



Antiques Wanted
Upscale Decor Items, Art Glass, Sterling, etc. No Furn. **812-535-1400 (Local)**

**MUSICAL
6090**

★ **Pianos For Sale** ★
★ 6 to choose from
★ Roland Player Piano, \$235
★ Conn Organ, \$150
★ Standard Upright, \$75 (needs tuning)
Also used Yamaha, Roland & Kurzweil electrics in stock at the **Downtown Mall, 231 S. Ridgewood, near the Circle, Sebring. Open Wed-Sat 9-5**

FREE Hammond Organ
With wood bench. Works Great! Just needs a new home. **863-991-1555**

Yamaha V3 Violin student kit- Exc cond! Includes case, bow, manual and CD Vol. 1. \$375. **863-257-0386**

**MEDICAL
6095**

Sebring- SCOUT 4-wheel Travel Scooter, Disassembles for travel. 9 mile cruise range. Cost 792.32+tax, used once, \$500, 614-572-7445

**GOLF ACCESSORIES
6125**

Adams Hybrid Full Set- Bag included, right hand, Senior Flex. \$250. **863-385-7598**

Over 500 Clubs to choose from! NEW and used putters, wedges & Utility woods from \$5 and up. Starter sets with bag from \$39. Ping-Cobra-TMade **Mikies Golf Shop** at the **Downtown Mall, 231 S. Ridgewood, near the Circle, Sebring. Open Wed-Sat 9-5**

**GOLF CARTS
6126**

2018 E-Z-Go Gas Golf Cart- still under warranty, like new! \$5,500. **219-898-1484**

Golf Cart Battery Chargers- 36 volts. EZ Go or Club Car; \$175/ \$150 **863-453-4234**

**FIREARMS
6131**

Air Rifles (2), Crosman 760 Powermaster w/scope, BB or .177 pellet, \$150.00 & GAMO 440 Hunter w/scope, .177 pellet, \$125.00 - 828-455-1583

H & R 1906 .22 Revolver- 7 shot, octagon barrel. \$105 **863-243-2096**

**BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES
6135**

Assorted Adult & Kids Bikes-Like New! \$30 and up. **863-414-8088**

Huffy 26" Ladies Coaster bike- auto rack included. \$50. **863-385-7598**

**BICYCLES/
TRICYCLES
6135**

Sebring - 'JETSON' electric bicycle. Cost \$1725+tax. Only 28.6 miles on odometer. Great Xmas gift. \$1000. 614-572-7445.

**LAWN & GARDEN
6160**

2009 Poulan XT Riding Mower- 12.5 hp Briggs & Stratton, 30" cut. Good cond. \$350. 507-820-1107

Yard Tools-Riding Mower, 2 weed trimmers, hedge trimmer & other misc. \$50-\$250 obo. 863-699-1919

**OUTDOOR LIVING
6161**

Patio Set-table, 4 chairs, 2 swivel chairs, chaise lounge & sm cocktail table. Green. \$500. 863-873-4150 Highlands Ridge

**DOGS
6233**



YORKIE MINIS CKC
Absolutely Adorable & Healthy Great Selection, meet the parents! **TEACUPS AVAILABLE** Prices starting at \$895+. 941-773-0723 • 322-6709 minimagicYorkie.com

**APPLIANCES
6250**

ABE Appliance "Plug into lower prices"
Sales & Service
★ Used Appliances ★
Up to 90 day warranty.
Call 863-655-4995
Help Wanted

Ninja 3 n 1 cooking system-Red. Used once. With all accessories. \$50. 863-835-2419.

NuWave Pro Plus Infrared Oven- w/extender ring. New in box. \$50. 863-835-2419.

Refrigerator- Frigidaire, w/ice maker, top freezer, white. Like new! \$250. 810-623-3861

Sebring - 30" Hotpoint electric range. Has time delay, self clean, bake/broil, glass door oven, \$150, 614-572-7445.

Toaster Oven, Black & Decker, like new, \$30/Space Heaters Pelonis disc furn., \$35, Honeywell Heat Giant, \$25 & Patton Utility htr, \$20 - 828-455-1583

**MISCELLANEOUS
6260**

24" all most new man's bike \$80. Tools \$5, boat parts \$80, sewing machine \$20, 567-208-2421

PUT CLASSIFIEDS TO WORK FOR YOU!
FIND A JOB!
BUY A HOME!
BUY A CAR!

TROPICAL FRUIT TREES
Available in:
3, 5, 7, 15, 20, 25 & 50 Gallon Pots
Avocados Bananas Citrus Mango Peach Longan & Figs Starfruit Soursop Lychee Mulberry Papaya Jackfruit Tamarind Olive Guava Cherry Coconut Moringa Jabatocabba Miracle Fruit Blueberries Mamey Sapote Sapidilla Sugar Apple Persimmon Loquat & MUCH MORE!!!
★ Delivery Available
BARRETT'S TREE NURSERY
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**MERGE
FROM PAGE 1D**

uncertainties surrounding Britain's departure from the European Union to subside. The company will ultimately be listed in the U.K.

"I'm confident we'll be in a more settled environment than we are in today," CEO Emma Walmsley said.

Some planned divestments of \$1.3 billion would be expected to cover the costs of the integration. Annual costs will be slashed by 500 million pounds.

Shareholders had long pressured GSK to split up, mindful of the complexities of trying to create blockbuster drugs while selling consumer products like toothpaste. But the move surprised analysts because Walmsley, who took over in April, had seemed at first to be following in the footsteps of her predecessor, Andrew Witty, in resisting such a change.

Walmsley said the deal presents a way forward for GSK to become a global pharmaceuticals and vaccines company focused on advanced technologies.

"Ultimately, our goal is to create two exceptional U.K.-based global companies with the right capital structures, both of which are well positioned to deliver



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This Jan. 25, 2009 file photo, shows the sign at Pfizer world headquarters in New York.

improving returns to shareholders and significant benefits to patients and consumers worldwide," she said.

Shares in GSK rose 6 percent on the news. George Salmon, equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown, said a specialist pharma group might be better able to get results in the labs.

"The separation will take away the steady cash flows of the consumer business, meaning there's more pressure on the men and women in white coats to deliver the next generation of blockbusters," he said. "However, the potential to shift significant amounts of debt onto the cash generative

consumer business should take the strain off the balance sheet, and thus buy valuable time for the pipeline to deliver."

New York-based Pfizer Inc. had already said it was separating its Consumer Healthcare business from two other segments as part of a reorganization announced last July. The maker of Viagra and the nerve pain treatment Lyrica said it also will have an Innovative Medicines segment, which focuses on biological science and will bring in most of the company's revenue, and an Established Medicines business that include sales for older drugs like the cholesterol pill

Lipitor that have lost patent protection.

CEO Ian Read had said in July that the reorganization represented a "natural evolution" for Pfizer, given the strength of the products they are currently selling and drugs that are in late-stage clinical development. Pfizer expects to gain regulatory approval of at least 12 new drugs from the beginning of this year through 2022.

The company said the reorganization will occur in 2019, which is also when Chief Operating Officer Albert Bourla will become CEO, replacing Read.

Tom Murphy in Indianapolis contributed to this report.

**SALES
FROM PAGE 1D**

tax cuts into law last year. Mortgage rates have slumped in recent weeks as the falling stock market has signaled concerns about the U.S. economy.

The declining stock

market has created an additional drag for would-be buyers seeking to buy more expensive homes, as sales of properties worth more than \$1 million declined from a year ago.

The median sales price in November was \$257,700, up 4.2 percent from last year. Price gains

have moderated in the past year, though they're still climbing faster than the 3.1 percent increase in average hourly wages during the past year.

As home sales have slipped in the past year, more properties are sitting on the market and inventory has risen 4.2 percent to

1.74 million units.

Sales dropped 8.2 percent last month in the West, where housing is generally more expensive. Purchases increased last month in the Northeast, Midwest and South. All four geographic regions have seen declining sales over the past year.

**SMART
FROM PAGE 1D**

been staying out late on school nights. If you rent, a landlord might suspect an unauthorized occupant if you create a guest key that's used daily.

4. CHOOSING A SYSTEM

As cable and internet services become commodities, the companies behind them are turning to smart homes for new sources of revenue.

AT&T's Digital Life and Comcast's Xfinity Home offer cameras, door controls and other smart-home devices. The packages are good for those who prefer one-stop shopping, though you might save money and get more choices by shopping around.

For the do-it-yourself approach, consider which company's services you're already using heavily.

If it's Amazon, then devices powered by its Alexa digital assistant might work best. There's a range of Alexa products, including refrigerators and washing machines. You can command an Alexa microwave oven to "reheat one potato" instead of having to look up how many seconds. It'll also reorder popcorn with a command — from Amazon, of course.

Likewise, if you're a heavy Google user, choose devices that support Google's Assistant. Apple has products under the umbrella of



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Technology companies are pushing the "smart home," selling appliances and gadgets that offer internet-connected conveniences you didn't know you needed.

HomeKit, while Samsung has SmartThings. Some products will work with more than one digital assistant.

Some devices, especially cameras, come with extra fees for extended storage and other features. But in most cases, you have to pay only for the product.

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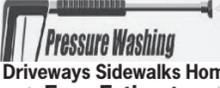


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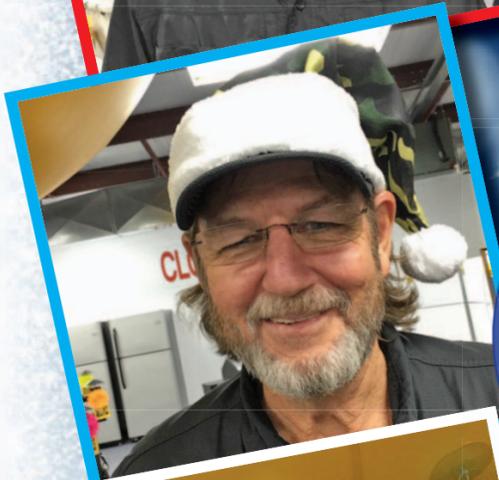
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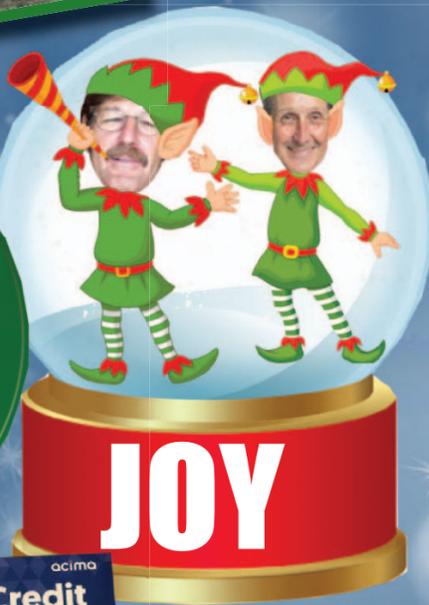
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"THE COUPLE AT THE NEXT TABLE SENT THIS WITH THEIR COMPLIMENTS... THEY'D LIKE YOU TO PUT YOUR PHONE IN IT."

"MY WIFE'S COOKING DINNER, OFFICER, SO YES, I'M GOING TO A FIRE."

Hi and Lois
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

YOUR PLACE LOOKS FESTIVE.

THANKS.

OUR DECORATIONS ARE UP.

AND OUR PRESENTS ARE WRAPPED.

WE'RE ALL READY FOR CHRISTMAS.

AND WE STILL HAVE TWO DAYS TO GO!

I'D BETTER GET STARTED ON MY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

MARY WORTH

"FLATTERY IS LIKE CHEWING GUM. ENJOY IT BUT DON'T SWALLOW IT."
- HANK KETCHAM

I ADMIT...

I WAS FLATTERED!

PROFESSOR IAN CAMERON TELLS HIS WIFE ABOUT HIS DAY...

JANNIE COMPLIMENTED MY "POWERFUL VOICE," AND ASKED IF I WAS EVER IN THE THEATER!

HARDLY THE FIRST STUDENT TO TELL THEIR TEACHER ANYTHING TO BOOST THEIR MARKS!

DON'T YOU THINK I HAVE AN IMPRESSIVE VOICE?

SURE YOU DO, DEAR!

BUT I DON'T NEED TO FLATTER YOU TO GET A HIGHER GRADE!

MAYBE I REALLY DO HAVE A GREAT "THEATER VOICE"!

OKAY, MAYBE YOU DO.

SO GENEROUS OF YOU TO ADMIT, TOBY!

JUST KEEPING IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

The FAMILY CIRCUS
By **BIL KEANE**

JAN. **MAY** **JULY**
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12-23
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WIZARD OF ID
by **HART, MASTROIANNI AND PARKER**

FOOM
PERFECTION
POP
IN-LAWS ARE COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS. MIND IF I HANG WITH YOU GUYS?
NO

Mort Walker's
beetle bailey

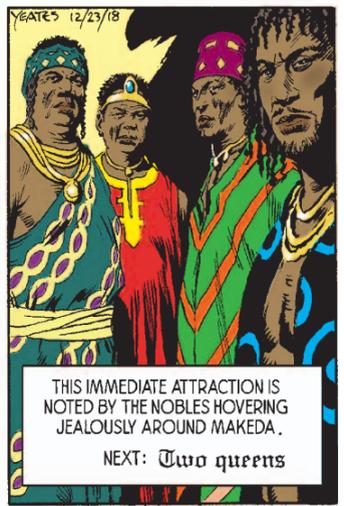
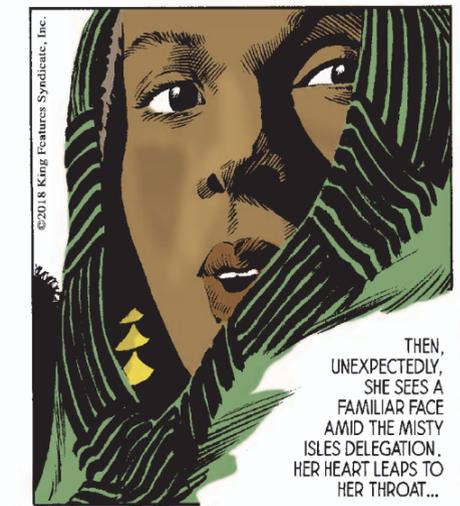
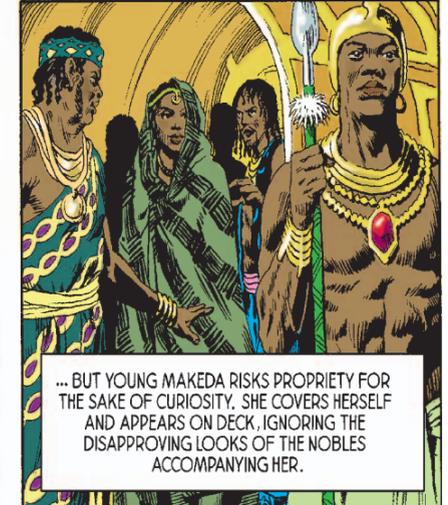
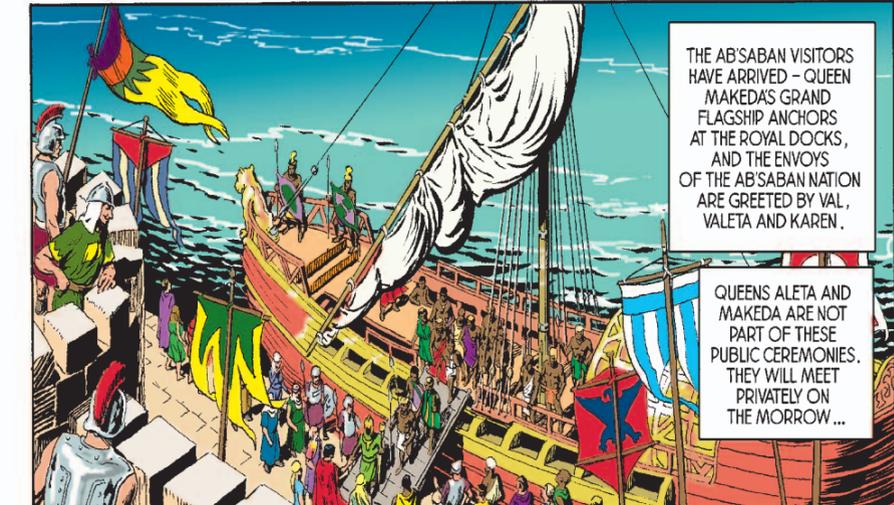
SARGE KEEPS GIVING ME DUMB JOBS
HERE COMES SARGE I DIDN'T FINISH MY JOB!
I'LL HIDE IN THE CHAPEL!
SARGE IS CHASING ME, CHAPLAIN!
CAN I SEEK SANCTUARY IN THE CHURCH?
CERTAINLY, MY SON
AND WHILE YOU'RE HERE, YOU CAN WASH SOME WINDOWS
GREG + MORT WALKER

HAGAR
the horrible
by **DIK BROWNE**

HAGAR, TONIGHT WE'RE GOING TO MEET HAMLET'S TEACHER!
NO, WE ARE NOT! YOU'RE GOING TO MEET HAMLET'S TEACHER!
YES, WE ARE! NO, WE'RE NOT!
YES WE ARE! NO, WE'RE NOT!
WE ARE GOING! YOU'RE GOING!
YOU ARE TOO! NO, I'M NOT!!
YOU MUST GO! WHY MUST I?
BECAUSE I SAID SO!! WELL, THEN...
12-23
SO VERY NICE TO FINALLY MEET HAMLET'S PARENTS!
YOUR SON IS A GENTLE SOUL!
AND HAMLET HAS READ MORE BOOKS THAN ANY OTHER STUDENT IN CLASS!
YOU SHOULD PRAISE HIM FOR THOSE QUALITIES!
I GET IT! REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY!

BLONDIE
BY **DEAN KUNZ & JOHN MARSHALL**

WOOOOOOO WHAT'S THAT?
IT IS I, JACOB MARLEY!
I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG ADDRESS!
THIS ISN'T THE JULIUS DITHERS RESIDENCE?! NO!
THAT'S MY BOSS!!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR WELL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES
HONEY! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THE GREAT DREAM I JUST HAD!!!
12-23



SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

A snowstorm knocked out the electrical power. Slylock Fox is going to sleep in the chair and wait for the electric alarm clock to wake him the moment power is restored. How will that be possible?

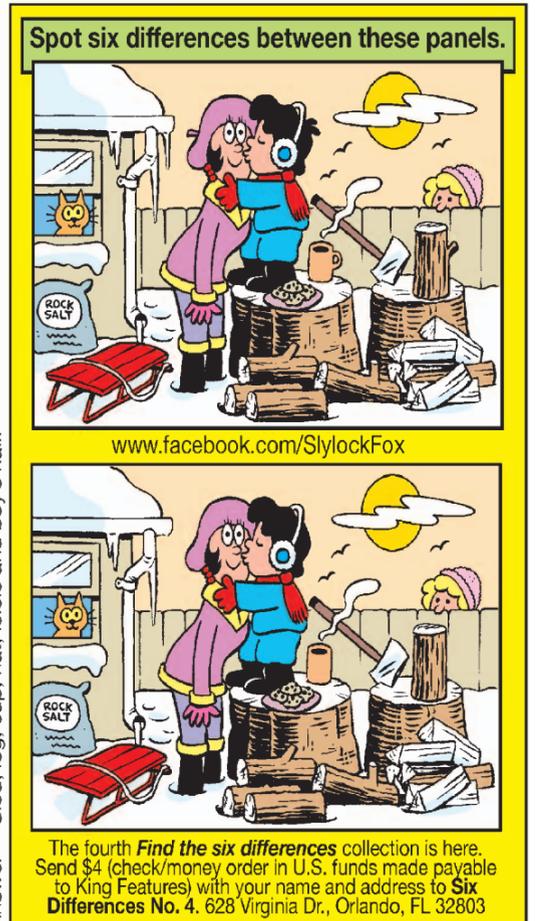
Solution -- Slylock will set the alarm for the exact time the stopped clock hands indicate. The moment the power goes back on, the alarm will punos

YOUR DRAWING



Today's terrific artist is Emma, age 7

Submit your drawing to www.kidcartoonists.com



Answer -- Sled, log, cup, hat, icicle and boy's hair.



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT and JIM BORGMAN

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE DOING THIS AGAIN!

YOU'VE HAD ALL YEAR TO FIND A PRESENT FOR YOUR MOM.

AND YET, ON DECEMBER TWENTY-THIRD, HERE I AM FIGHTING MY WAY INTO AN OVERCROWDED MALL!

BECAUSE YOU STILL NEED TO GET HER SOMETHING, TOO.

COMPLETELY BESIDE THE POINT!

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JEFF MACNELLY'S SLOPE

By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly

WELL, IRV, IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS.

YEP. AS A MATTER OF FACT, SANTA BROUGHT HIS SLEIGH IN HERE YESTERDAY.

WHAT FOR?

HE NEEDED HIS REINDEER ROTATED.

SHOECOMICS.COM ©18 MacNelly-Dirt, by King Features

PICKLES

by BRIAN CRANE

UP ON THE HOUSETOP REINDEER PAUSE...

OH, I CAN'T STAND THAT SONG! IT DRIVES ME CRAZY!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IT'S A WONDERFUL SONG!

REINDEER DO NOT HAVE PAWS! THEY HAVE HOOVES. IT SHOULD SAY "UP ON THE HOUSETOP REINDEER HOOVES."

12/23

IT DOESN'T SAY PAWS, EARL. IT SAYS PAUSE, P-A-U-S-E.

OH. WELL... THEN LET'S TALK ABOUT AN OLD MAN, A SLEIGH, AND EIGHT REINDEER ON AN ICY HOUSETOP. WHAT COULD GO WRONG THERE?

THE BORN LOSER

by Art & Chip Sansom

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, GLADYS?

I'VE BEEN CREATING A NEW FLAVORED COFFEE!

YOU KNOW HOW WILDLY SUCCESSFUL PUMPKIN-SPICE COFFEE HAS BECOME AS A FLAVOR THAT CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF AUTUMN?

WELL, I THOUGHT, WHY NOT CREATE A NEW SEASONAL FLAVOR JUST FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

I FINALLY CAME UP WITH A PERFECT FLAVOR THAT'S SYNONYMOUS WITH THE HOLIDAYS - IT MAY BECOME THE NEXT BIG THING!

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TASTE IT - SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY THE FLAVOR.

IT'S MAMA'S FRUITCAKE-RECIPE FLAVORED COFFEE!

GAAA!

TIGER

BY BUD BLAKE

MOM'S BACK FROM THE SUPER-MARKET

MOM SAID WE GET ICE CREAM IF WE UNLOAD ALL THE STUFF IN THE TRUNK

JUST THE GROCERIES, HUGO

www.kingfeatures.com

12-23 BUD BLAKE

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BABY BLUES

Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

GAH! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

MY TEACHER SAID WE HAVE TO WRITE A BOOK REPORT OVER THE HOLIDAY BREAK!

HOW AM I GOING TO DO HOMEWORK IF I'M BUSY GOOFING OFF?

SIMPLE.

... JUST PLAN YOUR TIME WISELY, AND DO LESS GOOFING OFF.

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A GREAT PARENT.

I'LL BE TOUGH BUT FAIR WITH A HUSBAND WHO CHANGES DIAPERS.

BARNEY GOOGLE and SONS FISH WITH

BY JOHN ROSE

ALWAYS WHISTLE CHRIS'MIS CAROLS WHILE YO'RE FISHIN', BOYS !!

WHY ?!

BECAUSE THEY'RE CATCHY !!

ELVINEY GAVE ME NEW WADERS, A FISH STRINGER AN' A NEW BAIT CAN !!

MERRY CHRIS'MIS, LUKEY !!

MERRY CHRIS'MIS, SNUFFY !!

WHAT DID LOWEEZY GIVE YA FER CHRIS'MIS ?

WE FISH YOU A MERRY CHRIS'MIS !!

BY MASTROIANNI AND HART

FERRIPPPP!

HUCK

FOONK

GROG

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SALLY FORTH

by Francesco Marciuliano

TED'S PARENTS' HOUSE, MANY CHRISTMASSES AGO...

NO WAY...

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, DAD!!!

NO WAY!

IT'S THE ATARI!!!! I GOT THE ATARI!!!!

I GOT THE ATARI!!!!

ATARI VIDEO COMPUTER SYSTEM

WAIT, HOW DID YOUR ARMORED LETTER "I" SHOOT MY LETTER "I" FROM MY SIDE OF THE SCREEN?

NOT SURE. I JUST FOUND MY ATARI IN MY FOLKS' ATTIC. BUT WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO LEARN THE COMPLEX TACTICAL MANEUVERS OF "COMBAT" AND ALL THE OTHER GAMES WHEN I BRING THEM BACK HOME.

CRANKSHAFT

BY BATIUK & DAVIS

OH...

AND ONE MORE THING...

CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH, SANTA?

IT'S SO SWEET TO SEE CODY SO INNOCENT ABOUT SANTA.

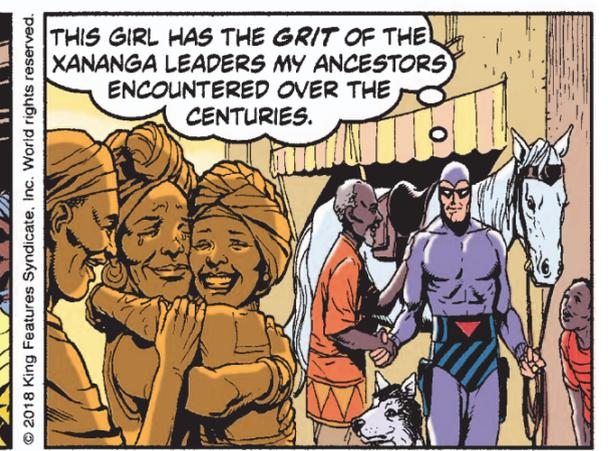
SORT OF...

HE PLANS TO SELL IT ON FLEABAY.



THE PHANTOM

BY LEE FALK



NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

DENNIS THE MENACE BY HANK KETCHAM

BY HANK KETCHAM

